

Minister promises enquiry into fog warning lights after motorway crash kills ten, injures 25

Police are blamed for M-way disaster

By CRAIG SETON AND RAY CLANCY

AN INVESTIGATION into the use of motorway warning lights was called for last night after ten people died on the M4 in one of Britain's worst road accidents.

Christopher Chope, the roads minister said he was very concerned that warning lights had not been switched on because the police believed that the fog was dense enough for motorists to realise they should slow down.

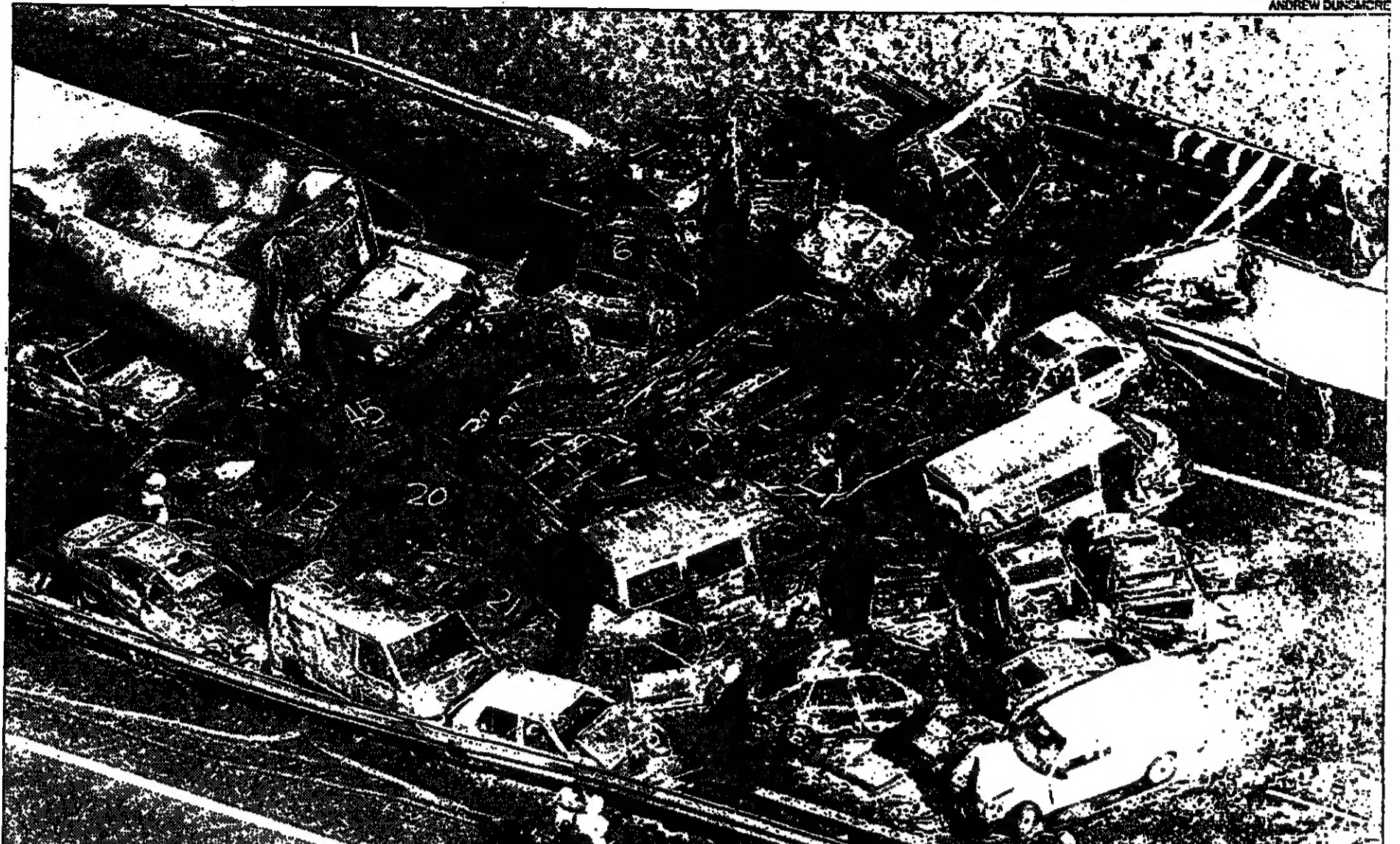
"As the highway authority, we provide the signs and it is for the police to put them into effect. I am very concerned to hear of the attitude of the police in this case. I expect this is one of the issues we shall be looking at following this awful accident," Mr Chope said.

An informal examination of fog warning lights is already being carried out and it is likely to be stepped up as a

result of the multiple pile-up at 6.50am yesterday. Joan Ruddock, the Labour shadow transport minister, said automatic fog warning lights should be installed on all motorways that have a history of dense fog patches.

Forty-five vehicles collided on the London-bound carriageway between Hungerford, Berkshire, and Swindon, Wiltshire. Many bodies were burnt beyond recognition after at least 20 vehicles caught fire and 25 people were injured, five seriously. The last of the bodies was not removed from the wreckage until 12 hours later.

The eastbound carriageway of was shut over a 20-mile stretch and it is not expected to reopen until today. Police had reported that 13 people died in the collision, but the number was reduced to ten after it was discovered that confusion at the scene of the accident and at the mortuary had led to the wrong figure being made public.



After the crash: the wrecked and burnt-out vehicles covered 60 yards of three lanes of the M4. Twenty vehicles caught fire and a 20-mile stretch of the motorway was closed

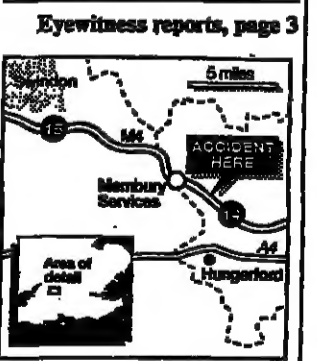
spread over 60 yards of the three eastbound lanes as cars, vans and lorries careened into each other. Eyewitnesses spoke of drivers jumping out of their vehicles and running for their lives as vehicles piled up and caught fire.

Alan Bateman, a manager from Bristol, was hailed as a hero after he climbed out of his damaged car and ran along the central reservation to try to warn oncoming vehicles of the wreckage ahead. Some drivers sounded their horns at him, however, and drove on towards the scene of the crash.

Injured and shocked survivors were found by police and ambulance crews wandering on the eastbound carriageway, and valiant efforts were made to rescue drivers trapped in their burning vehicles.

More than 60 Berkshire fire officers with 10 pumps fought to put out the burning vehicles and at one stage extra supplies of water had to be provided by the Wiltshire fire service. A fleet of ambulances ferried the injured to the Princess Margaret Hospital in Swindon.

Thames Valley police said that the accident was so serious that the Department of Transport would inevitably ask for a full report.



Eyewitness reports, page 3

Violent desert storms follow Gulf war

Destruction of the agreed desert buffer zone during the Gulf conflict will lead to encroaching dunes and dust, Nick Nuttall writes

DRAMATIC increases in the number of violent sandstorms and of dusts encroaching on airports, agricultural settlements and cities is being predicted as a consequence of the Gulf war. Scientists using satellite imaging technology have found evidence that the "desert pavement" in the region has been broken across huge areas by the movements of allied and Iraqi armies and armoured vehicles, and the building of hundreds of miles of military fortifications.

The desert pavement, a shield of pebbles laid down over thousands of years, ranges from the size of a pea to a walnut. Its presence makes it difficult for even strong winds to dislodge the dust and sand below and helps make surrounding regions habitable by protecting developments from erosion.

The pavement's destruction has been identified by Farouk el-Baz, an Egyptian-born geologist, who is head of Boston University's centre for remote sensing in America.

Pebbles which have laid undisturbed on the desert surface for some time acquire a "desert varnish" of magnesium and iron oxides which absorb light. The breaking of the pavement leads to more light being emitted, which can be clearly seen by satellites that have imaged the desert before and after the war.

Dr el-Baz claims that the

Iraq admits rising against Saddam

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

STREET protests were reported in Baghdad suburbs yesterday as the Iraqi government admitted for the first time that the country is gripped by an uprising against President Saddam Hussein.

Reports of unrest in Baghdad were confirmed by the State Department in Washington, as it appeared that the Kurds were having success in the northern areas of the country but the government might be recovering ground from the rebels in the south. The large number of refugees now in the eastern margins of the country along the border with Iran testified to the confusion around Basra.

The admission of the revolt came in a government newspaper which accused the United States of trying to fragment the country. Tehran Radio claimed that there were "massive demonstrations" in several parts of Baghdad which led to clashes in which a number of people from both sides were killed or wounded.

Reports from the Dawa Party in exile in London said there was unrest in the Baghdad suburbs of Al-Thawra and Al-Dura. Anti-Saddam elements were said to have taken control of the city of Ramadi 80 miles west of the capital.

Iran radio said battles raged between loyalist forces and rebels both around Basra and the northern oil city of Kirkuk. An opposition Kurdish Front spokesman said in

Damascus that Iraqi loyalist forces had blown up two oil wells in Kirkuk. It is believed the government may want to deprive the rebellious north of oil revenue.

Kurdish rebels were reported tightening their grip on Kurdish areas in the north after purging Sulaymaniyah of remaining government troops, the Iranian news agency reported. The agency said the government's crack Republican Guard had meanwhile stepped up attacks with napalm bombs on rebels in Basra. Several big explosions rocked Basra.

It quoted a Basra citizen who crossed into Iran as saying the rebels were again trying to drive loyalist forces out of the city and that the Republican Guard were using napalm. A group of 30 Iraqis wounded by napalm arrived in the Iranian city of Kharamashahr earlier in the week.

The Kurds claimed control of the towns of Jalula, Qarab, Anjar, Kallehjo and Jabbari. IRNA said, quoting a Kurdish refugee, Iraqi Kurds who had surrounded Kirkuk were said to be closing in on government forces. Government artillery had killed several women and children daily in the north, according to one refugee.

PLO initiative, page 10  
Famous victory, page 14  
Hostage plea, page 24

Damascus peace plea

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

JAMES Baker, the US secretary of state, held talks in Damascus yesterday with Syria's President Hafez al-Assad as Damascus Radio said that the government wanted all Middle East problems resolved.

The two discussed post-war regional security, terrorism, hostages in Lebanon and economic development. Mr Baker had a two-hour working luncheon with his Syrian counterpart, Farouk al-Shara.

Damascus Radio said that a post-war regional settlement depended on an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and a guarantee of the Palestinian people's rights.

The daily al-Bath, organ of Syria's ruling Bath party, spoke of a need for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Baker mission, page 10

Property value tax is favourite

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THREE separate options for replacing the community charge with a property tax will be considered by ministers today as the government's review of local government finance reaches a critical stage.

The front-runner last night appeared to be a plan supported by both Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, and Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for a tax based on the capital value of properties but adjusted downwards for small households.

The government appears ready to ride out the threat of a right-wing backlash against the expected abolition of the poll tax and senior ministers have apparently narrowed the options. Speculation was mounting among Conservative MPs yesterday that an announcement about the review's conclusions will come soon. Some even thought it

would come after today's cabinet meeting. However, it was being emphasised last night that John Major would not be stampeded into a hasty announcement, and Mr Heseltine insisted in the Commons that he would not be rushed.

During a rowdy debate in the Commons, in which the Opposition exploited the government's discomfort, Mr Heseltine said: "We will continue with our review and we will continue with the timetable that we have put forward. We will conclude our review, we will do it in our own time, we will do it thoroughly."

In a speech in which he gave no clue about the review's outcome, the environment secretary said:

Continued on page 24, col 1

Last chance, page 2  
Reform options, page 2  
Leading article, page 15

GP budget success

More than 300 GP practices in England will become budget holders under the NHS reforms from April 1, allowing them to buy hospital care for the first time, William Waldegrave, the health secretary, announced. Page 5

No smoking



The Princess of Wales, who visited an anti-cigarette exhibition in London on No Smoking Day, made it clear that no smoking was allowed in her house. Page 24

Minister out

Serbia's opposition claimed a victory in its anti-communist campaign by forcing the resignation of the interior minister. Page 12

Indian poll

A test for India's unstable democracy lies ahead as MPs were told to prepare for an election in late May. The dissolution of the parliament ended a week of political uncertainty. Page 13

Aspirin cure

The humble and cheap aspirin could save thousands of lives a year by cutting the risk of heart attacks and strokes by at least 25 per cent, according to a British researcher. Page 18

Smaller gap

Britain's current account deficit was much smaller last year than originally estimated, said the Central Statistics Office in a statement which stunned City analysts. Page 25

Pressure game

Rob Andrew, who plays for England in their five nations championship decider against France at Twickenham on Saturday, discusses the pressures which face modern-day rugby union players. Page 36

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Warm touch of spring

By JOHN YOUNG

SPRING arrived in Britain yesterday with temperatures in most parts of the country around 10C (18F) above the average for mid-March. The London weather centre said that the average temperature in England and Wales was between 17 and 18C (63-64F), reaching 20C (68F) in London.

It was, however, far short of the record set on the same date in 1965 when 27C (81F) was

recorded in parts of northern and northeast England.

Yesterday, after early fog and mist, most of Britain basked in blue skies and sunshine, although some parts of Scotland and Northern Ireland remained cloudy with patchy rain. It is likely to be cloudier today with the top temperature down to about 15C (59F).

Forecast, page 24

An ideal third world home — for just £100

By NICK NUTTALL

TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

SANDWICHED between a dream cooker costing close to £1,000 and a state of the art dishwasher stands a modest dwelling costing less than a modern vacuum cleaner.

The £100 home, possibly the most incongruous exhibit to be shown at the Ideal Home exhibition, which opens in London today, is unlikely to enthuse residents of Surrey's stockbroker belt. However, for millions of homeless people in poorer parts of the world the dwelling could be the key to a better quality of life.

The simplistic appearance of the two-room house, the brainchild of experts with Intermediate Technology, a charity based in Rugby, Warwickshire, belies its

clever design, environment friendly features and use of materials that are plentiful and cheap in many of the countries it is designed to help.

Local soils are processed and compacted by a levering device to create durable and water-resistant blocks which can perform as well as higher priced concrete blocks. A brick built home would require the energy equivalent of 20 trees to make, whereas the soil blocks need just half a tree.

The home's fibre-reinforced roof tiles use local plant and animal fibres to create a material that is safer than the traditional thatch, cheaper and longer lived than imported corrugated iron and more energy efficient to use than clay.

Even the wood-burning cooker, called a Kenyan ceramic jiko stove and which costs about £2, has been computer

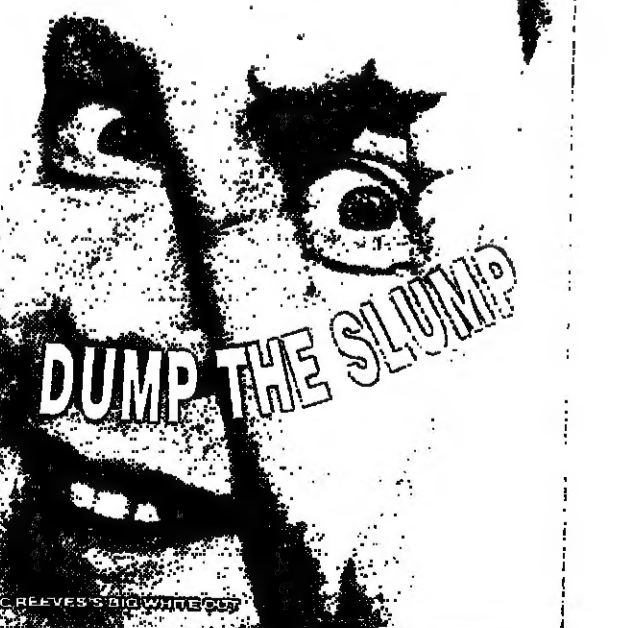
designed for efficiency. It needs about a quarter less wood than rival stoves which, in parts of the world where charcoal and wood are either expensive or becoming increasingly hard to find, offers significant benefits.

The home is being introduced in Kenya which has an acute and growing housing shortage particularly in urban and semi-urban areas and whose population is growing fast. The United Nations estimates that by 2000 the number of people worldwide who are homeless or living in unhealthy and overcrowded conditions will have reached two billion.

Officials from Intermediate Technology, whose patron is the Prince of Wales, said yesterday that the house was a viable means of easing the third world's chronic housing shortage.

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A BETTER TITLE FOR A MAN



LAUGHING THROUGH HARD TIMES PLUS

MILAN KUNDERA'S HAUNTING FICTION THE SECOND LIFE OF MUHAMMAD ALI

SOUTH AFRICA: THE DOGS BITE BLACK A BESTSELLING JUNKIE'S LAST RIDE

OUT NOW



# Heseltine gives last chance to overspenders

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

SEVENTEEN councils which were officially declared at risk of charge capping by the government yesterday are to be given a last chance to think again and reduce spending.

Michael Heseltine, environment secretary, told the Commons that he would not hesitate to use his new and more extensive capping powers against any authority which set an excessive budget. He added: "It is not too late to look again... to examine again the scope for savings and improving value for money."

The message was echoed by Michael Portillo, his local government minister. He said it was "a matter of concern"

that so many councils had set excessive budgets. "It remains open to such authorities to adopt substitute lower budgets if they so wish."

The list announced yesterday included the names of the first four Tory councils to face charge capping - Berkshire, Somerset, Warwickshire and the district council at Langborough on Tees.

Mr Portillo said that the environment secretary would take a decision on which councils should be capped this year "as soon as practicable". Officials said this would be early next month. Local authorities have until midnight on Sunday to submit details of their budgets to Mr Heseltine. Ministers expect to hear from councils who want to revise budgets before Easter.

David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, said the announcement showed that the government had no intention of scrapping the poll tax immediately. "This is the action of a secretary of state who knows that we are going to have to live with the poll tax for another three years or more."

Since 21 Labour councils were capped last year the government has strengthened its capping armoury, taking powers not only to reduce budgets but to enforce reductions in poll tax levels too.

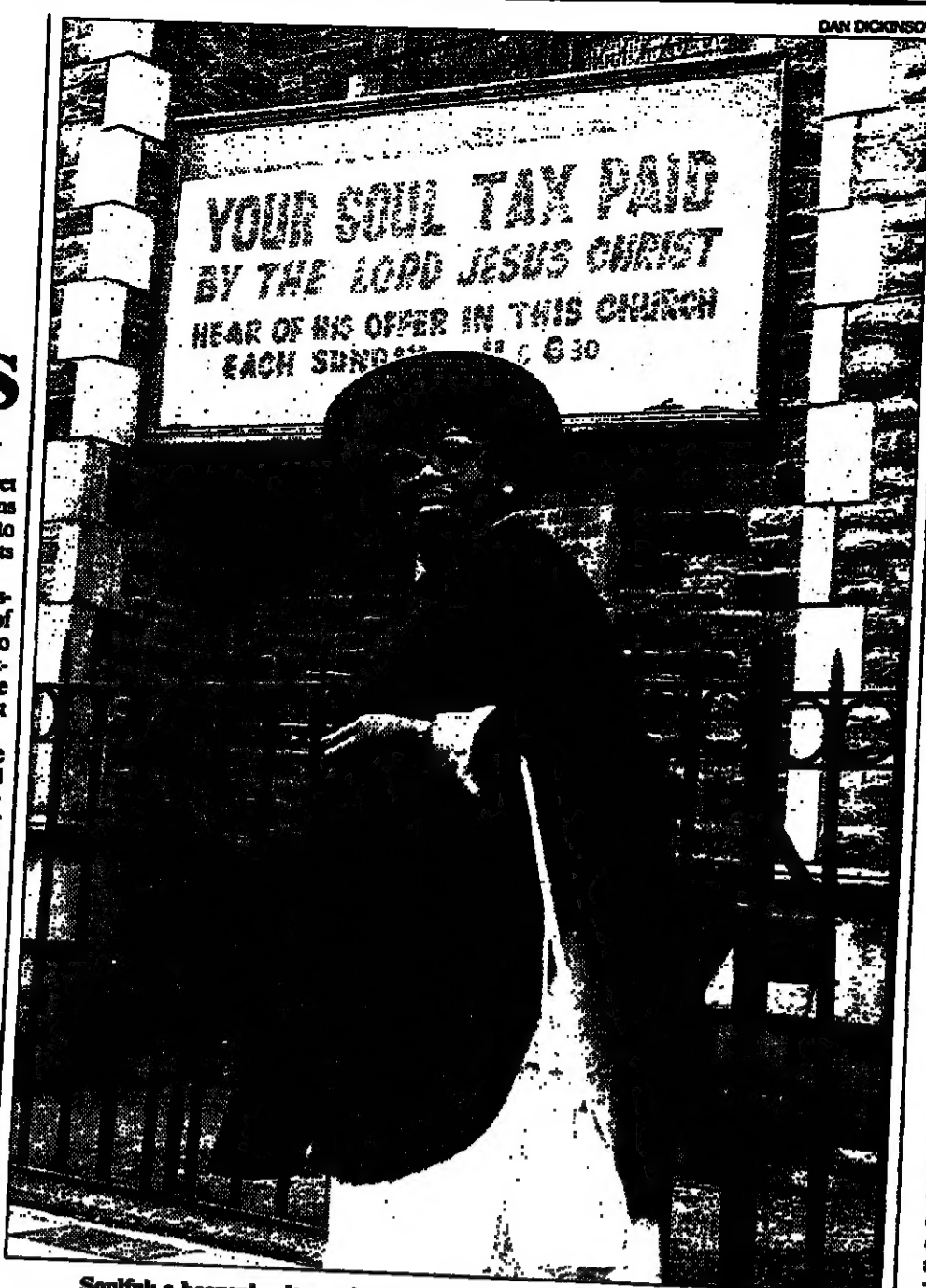
Mr Portillo indicated that the government had no intention of softening the capping criteria it set in October. In particular he ruled out suggestions that ministers might overlook cases where spending was only slightly above limits. If confirmed, his decision would bear harshly on Berkshire, which is only £400,000 above its target figure, a fact it blames on a decision by a district council to delay payment of its precept.

The Conservative-led Association of District Councils last night called for the abolition of the community charge and its replacement with a property tax supplemented by a nominal per capita charge.

The councils named as being at risk of capping yesterday were: the London boroughs of Greenwich and Lambeth; metropolitan boroughs of Barnet, Doncaster and Warrington; counties of Berkshire, Somerset and Warwickshire; and the shire districts of Basildon, Bristol, Ipswich, Langborough, Middlesbrough, Milton Keynes, Norwich, Reading and Stoke-on-Trent.

Leading article, page 15

Letters, page 15



Soulful: a heavenly alternative to the poll tax in Brixton, south London

## Minister points finger at Labour over poll tax

By PETER MULLIGAN AND ROBERT MORGAN

MICHAEL Heseltine yesterday sought to make political capital out of poll tax levels charged by Labour councils, but gave MPs no clue about the outcome of his review.

In a highly charged Commons debate, the environment secretary said that Labour-run authorities across the country levied a higher community charge than those controlled by Conservatives.

He warned electors that voting Labour meant, on average, an extra £78 on the poll tax bill. "Never let it be said that a Labour vote doesn't cost you money," he said.

The government would finish its review of local government finance in its own time, he said. "We will do it thoroughly and when we produce it, we will command the support of the country," he said. Seventeen authorities risked charge-capping and should think again, because it was not too late to find savings, Mr Heseltine said.

Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, ridiculed the poll tax and the

review, describing Mr Heseltine and the prime minister as "the blond leading the blind".

In a speech loudly cheered by Labour MPs, Mr Gould said that the poll tax produced tragic results and misery among those who had to pay and force in government ranks.

Hardly a day went by without a new idea, each more ludicrous than the last - a head tax, a floor tax, a skull tax, a bed and breakfast tax, a capital value tax, a bedroom tax. It seemed that there was no architectural feature nor part of the anatomy that the government had not thought of taxing, Mr Heseltine kept dropping ideas "as fast and frequently as Brian Rix dropped his trousers".

He taunted Mr Heseltine with failing to come up with a scheme that commanded majority support, and des-

cribed Tory MPs who backed his speech as a "disreputable rabble" showing their desperation. Highlighting Tory divisions over retention of the poll tax, Mr Gould said that the party was cracking along fault lines that ran deep.

Mr Gould called for abolition of the tax, offering Labour co-operation for the necessary legislation, and urged adoption of Labour's plan for modernised rates, which, he said, would benefit seven in ten households.

David Wiltshire, Tory MP for Spelthorpe, said that the Conservative party was in danger of being panicked by Labour and the media. The government had to respond to the message of last week's Tory defeat at Ribbles Valley, but should not be panicked into creating something that, like the community charge, had not been thought through.

Jobless craftsmen conned by £80,000 offer of work

By ROBIN STACEY

FOR unemployed craftsmen it looked like a dream come true: the chance to earn up to £80,000 a year tax free helping to rebuild war-torn Kuwait.

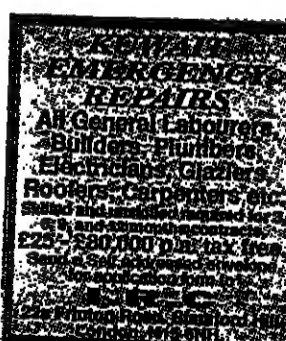
Thousands of jobless building trade workers in areas of high unemployment saw advertisements in regional newspapers offering contracts of between three and twelve months. They were invited to apply to IRC of 22a Frinton Road, Stanford Hill, N15.

Many wasted no time in writing for an application form. Others travelled to London to claim their pitch at the front of the queue.

Hopes of instant rich pickings, however, were quickly dispelled. The applicants received only an "amateurish CV form" and an invitation to forward a £5 non-refundable deposit for administration costs to an address in Regent Street, London.

Hundreds of disappointed and angry job hunters telephoned the newspapers and local trading standards officers. The switchboard of the Middlesbrough Evening Gazette, which carried the advertisement twice last week, "practically went into meltdown", according to a telephone.

Eric Robinson, head of Cleveland Trading Standards Office, said that some people had brought in the forms that



they had been sent. "My advice was as long as you were prepared never to see it again, the decision on sending the money was yours."

His London counterparts quickly found that the Regent Street address was an accommodation address. Police were informed. Last night Scotland Yard confirmed that they are investigating the placing of the advertisement.

John Kenning, owner of Hold Everything, a post and message-leaving service, said last night: "Mine is a perfectly legitimate accommodation address business. A woman opened an account with me on Monday in the name of IRC. She was a pleasantly spoken ordinary businesswoman. On the first day I received some 250 letters, and subsequently the police became involved and I do not know how many have come since."

Stephen Alambritis, spokesman for the federation, added: "The most common complaint from our members is about the growing number of willfully-nifty charges being imposed. It is all getting out of hand. There is nothing more irritating to businessmen, who are probably working seven days a week, than to see the banks lashing out on glitzy and expensive advertising campaigns knowing they are paying for it through additional and unfair charges."

Bob Jameson, of National Water Bank, said that

the bank aimed to provide the best service for its customers. "I can't say we always get it right, but this is a service industry and we deal with six-and-a-half million personal customers and two million business customers. We don't charge for people speaking to bank managers and we like to think we get it right most of the time."

Leading article, page 15

01006

## Options for reform

### Modified Poll Tax

Modifying the poll tax has strong support on the right of the Conservative party. By taking education, police and fire services out of local authority control, supporters argue that community charge bills could be reduced to less than £200.

Every state school would be given grant maintained status and school governors would receive an annual Treasury grant. Fire and police authority boundaries would be redrawn to create fewer, larger forces along the lines of proposals already drawn up by the Association of Chief Police Officers.

**For**  
Preserves the principle that everyone must pay, but lightens the burden on individuals.

**Against**  
Switching education to central funding would cost the Treasury at least £5 billion a year and local planning of schools and police would become even more remote.

### Back to the rates

A return to the rating system that existed until April 1990 offers the fastest route out of the poll tax maze. Councils still hold rating registers and valuation lists. The fact that Labour has espoused the idea makes it politically unattractive to many Tories as does the fact that rating valuation figures are 18 years old. Revaluation would take two years and produce a new set of winners and losers.

Labour says that if it won a June election the rates would be back from April 1, 1992.

**For**  
Simple to implement. Cost falls broadly on those best able to pay. Much cheaper to collect than poll tax.

**Against**  
Raises unfairness of single person paying as much as family of four adults next door. Without changes new bills would be higher than 1989/90 rates.

### Capital Property Tax

Reported to be Michael Heseltine's favoured solution, capital valuation would be introduced in two stages. Initially properties would be grouped in broad bands, building society house price figures would be used to set values for each band area by area.

Later a full revaluation could be carried out to assign individual values to each property. An alternative would be to revalue on sale with the purchase price becoming the new rateable value.

**For**  
Easy to understand. Could be applied to council houses and flats valued routinely under right to buy. Firm link between taxation and ability to pay.

**Against**  
Would accentuate difference between types of property and parts of the country.

### Room Tax

An alternative means of valuing property would be to set a notional value on each bedroom or reception room and calculate the value of a house or flat from that figure.

Derided by Labour as the "bedroom tax" the proposal would require councils to keep a close check on extensions and loft conversions to ensure that occupiers were not evading the tax. Unlikely to be adopted.

**For**  
Provides an element of per capita taxation on the assumption that most bedrooms in a house will be occupied by at least one person who benefits from local services.

**Against**  
Difficult to administer, requiring internal inspection of homes.

### Local Head Tax

As a supplement to a local property tax, a head tax would retain the principle that everyone should pay something towards the cost of local services while reducing individual poll tax bills to about £100.

It could be levied using the community charge register or the electoral roll, with bills sent to individuals. Alternatively householders could be required to collect the tax on the basis of information supplied by them about the number of adults at their home.

Michael Heseltine is said to favour a third option of charging all householders the equivalent of three poll taxes and granting rebates if they can show there are fewer than three adults living at the same address.

**For**  
Ensures that councils are accountable to all their residents. Reduces the amount that needs to be raised through the rates. Less easy to evade than the community charge.

**Against**  
Collection costs would consume up to a quarter of revenue. Would require spot checks on homes to ensure that additional adults had not moved in.

### Local Income Tax

The solution favoured by the Liberal Democrats, local income tax has been studied by Labour and rejected on the grounds that it would cost too much to collect.

The Inland Revenue would have to add the local tax rate to the marginal rate charged to taxpayers and then forward the proceeds to up to 449 councils in England and Wales. Government figures show that to cover current spending councils would need to add between 3.9p in the pound (Isles of Scilly) and 14.5p (Greenwich) to existing rates of income tax.

**For**  
The ultimate guarantee that taxation is related to ability to pay.

**Against**  
Complex and expensive. Would create a cycle of deprivation in poorer areas, depriving them of services with well-paid jobs, increasing tax burdens on those remaining.

### Local Sales Tax

The Treasury has severe misgivings about giving councils the power to raise taxes which could affect national economic performance, although advocates argue that local business pressures would force councils to moderate demands.

In any event the plan is likely to fall foul of EC attempts to harmonise sales taxes throughout the Community. An alternative would be to guarantee councils a share of nationally raised VAT income.

**For**  
Residents reminded of the cost of local services every time they shop. A share of national VAT revenue would ensure stable tax base.

**Against**  
High local sales taxes would harm local businesses. Would fuel inflation.

## Drop in car sales 'will mean £1bn tax loss'

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE dramatic decline in car sales could cost the exchequer more than £1.1 billion in lost revenue, the equivalent of 1p on income tax, leaders of Britain's 13,000 car dealers and garages told Norman Lamont, the chancellor, yesterday.

The figures were published to underline the urgency with which the motor industry believes the chancellor should cut interest rates to revive sales. Motor industry leaders are increasingly concerned at the effect of the recession on their business with sales down 26 per cent in February, the fourteenth consecutive monthly fall.

The Retail Motor Industry Federation (RMI) says that the government will also have to consider the amount of tax revenues being lost from one of its biggest contributors to Treasury funds. The continuing decline in sales will drastically reduce the amount

of money brought into the Treasury, from tax on car sales, fuel, VAT and vehicle excise duty, as well as car servicing.

If sales fall this year by 400,000 cars, about 20 per cent, the RMI calculates the Treasury will lose income of £1.175 billion, including £365 million from VAT on new and used vehicles, £300 million from the ten per cent special car tax, and £80 million on car repairs and servicing will also be cut by £150 million. Nearly £18 billion is taken annually in taxes from the private motorist and road haulage industry. A £1.1 billion drop would be a significant loss.

□ Diesel cars will have to replace petrol cars if emissions of carbon dioxide, one of the main greenhouse gases, are to be curbed significantly, the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday.

## Increase in complaints against banks

By PETER VICTOR

THE number of people complaining about mistakes or shoddy treatment by their banks is increasing, according to the banking ombudsman. New complaints to last September increased by 45 per cent over the previous year. In 1988 they increased by 20 per cent and in 1989 by 30 per cent.

The ombudsman's report details some of the many complaints he has received. One bank, ordered to transfer \$500 to a customer's daughter who was travelling in America did not get the money to her for 31 days. As a result she had to sleep rough. Another bank credited a fraudster's account with a stolen £4,500 cheque even though it was crossed "not negotiable", and then

gave him special clearance so that he could withdraw the cash.

Chris Eadie, the assistant banking ombudsman, said yesterday that complaints were increasing as people became aware of the banking watchdog. "More people know about their right to bring complaints," he said.

Recent newspaper reports that a Midland Bank manager charged £25 for a brief talk with a customer brought an angry response yesterday. The National Federation of Self-Employed and Small Businesses warned members: "If you are going out to lunch with your bank manager (at his or your own invitation) then we seriously warn you to ensure that the bank will not

be charging you for the manager's lunch time. If you don't check then you could find a mysterious charge for the social event on your next bank statement."

Stephen Alambritis, spokesman for the federation, added: "The most common complaint from our members is about the growing number of willfully-nifty charges being imposed. It is all getting out of hand. There is nothing more irritating to businessmen, who are probably working seven days a week, than to see the banks lashing out on glitzy and expensive advertising campaigns knowing they are paying for it through additional and unfair charges."

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Leading article, page 15

01006

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# 'One big fireball and those poor devils did not stand a chance'

## Survivors speak of courage amid the carnage on the M4

By CRAIG SETON

A SCENE of carnage and horror was described by witnesses to the M4 crash. They told of vehicles erupting in flames, trapping their occupants, rivers of burning fuel on the carriageway and desperate efforts to free the injured from wreckage amid the blazing fires.

One survivor ran along the central reservation trying to stop oncoming vehicles after the initial crash. Although some stopped, other motorists sounded their horns and continued driving through the fog and into the burning wreckage.

Witnesses spoke of the heroism of a police Land Rover crew who used their vehicle to drag a damaged van from the inferno, its driver still trapped in his seat. The first firemen on the scene had to be doused in water as they fought to free a driver from his cab as flames inched closer and turned their jets of water to steam.

Dazed survivors were found wandering on the motorway and its hard shoulder. Others jumped from their vehicles and ran for their lives to escape crashing vehicles. Forty-five vehicles, including four heavy goods lorries, were involved in the pile-up at 6.50am, when the eastbound carriageway was already busy with commuters where it cuts through the rolling Berkshire countryside. Almost 100 yards of carriageway was littered with burning, twisted wreckage as cars, vans and lorries crashed into each other in the fog with such force that some cars rode up onto the roofs of vehicles in front. Experienced emergency service personnel were shocked by the scene.

David Foskett, Berkshire's deputy chief ambulance officer, said: "It is the most horrendous sight I have ever seen. The fire overwhelmed these people, and they did not stand a chance."

One driver, George Greenwood, of Bristol, said: "I am just glad to be alive. I was about 50 yards from the initial crash and had to screech to a halt. I think a lorry had jack-knifed, but it was foggy and

difficult to see what had happened. There was one big fireball and those poor devils did not stand a chance."

Another survivor, Kevin Hanson, a salesman, said: "It is so horrifying to see it in real life. You do not realise how overwhelming it all is. If you are trapped in your car and it catches fire there is very little chance."

Another witness, David Marsh, of the Automobile Association, said: "It is a terrible, terrible sight. Dozens of vehicles are just piled on top of each other. Some are on



fire, and there are injured people wandering around. "There are heavy lorries that do not even seem like lorries any more—just frames of twisted metal. The wreckage spreads over 100 yards across all three lanes and across the hard shoulder. And behind that there are lines of vehicles that have gone into the back of each other."

One articulated lorry came perilously to rest halfway up the embankment alongside the crash scene, its cab at right angles to the trailer. The first fire crew at the scene saw a river of burning fuel on the carriageway, running towards a lorry whose driver was trapped. The firemen and the lorry's cab were sprayed with water as the fire crew worked to cut the driver from his cab. A fireman said: "The heat was so intense that the water was turning to steam as soon as it left their hoses."

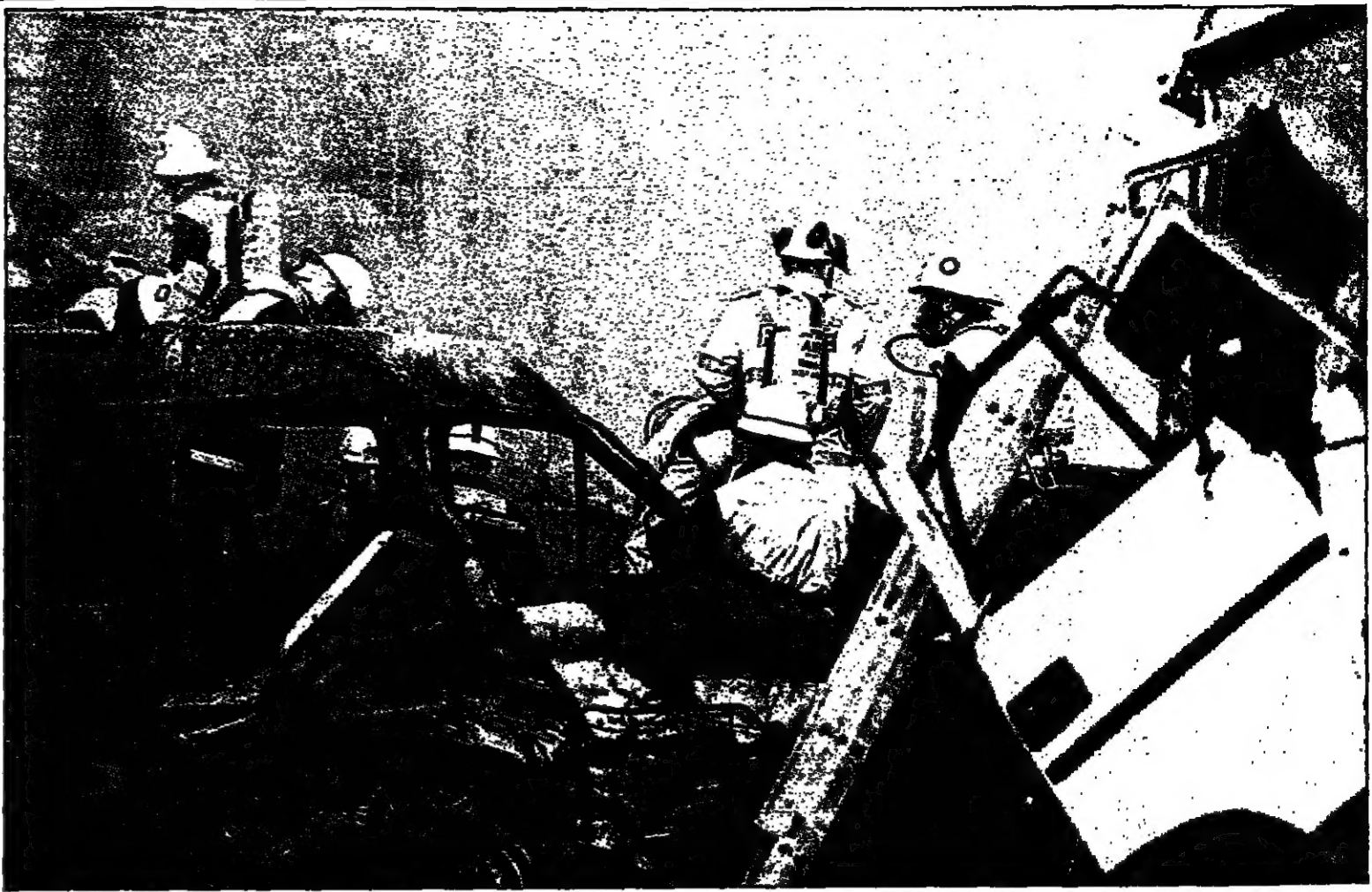
Howard Vincent, aged 36, of Swindon, who was travelling to Heathrow with Den Hastings, aged 31, said: "All I can remember was that the carriageway was blocked right across. We managed to brake hard and stop near the central reservation. Suddenly, someone hit us from behind. It was a car, and it suddenly exploded in a ball of fire. We both got out of the driver's door and ran for our lives. I was terrified."

Mr Hastings said: "There was glass showering all over the place. I could hear the sound of skidding as other cars slewed into each other."

David Allen, an ambulance officer, said at the scene: "About 20 cars, vans and lorries were involved in the crash, and they had congregated on top of each other. All the vehicles are on fire or are burnt out, and it is very unlikely the drivers would have been able to get out. It is a mass of twisted and tangled metal and I can see at least four bodies in one car."

Mr Bateman, aged 38, said that some drivers had hoisted their cars on to the roofs of other vehicles. He said he did not consider that he had acted heroically. "It is just something you do at the time."

Ten killed, page 1



Firemen helping survivors from vehicles after the M4 pile-up yesterday. Rescuers had to be doused with water as they worked amid fire

## Modern cars 'cocoon drivers from reality'

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

PSYCHOLOGISTS who have studied the attitudes of drivers involved in accidents say that the feeling of security engendered in the modern car, with its stereo system, plush seats and smooth suspension, gives no clues of dangers ahead. Instead, drivers feel confident, sometimes aggressive, and insulated from other traffic.

The feeling is so widespread that scientists now believe that only more intensive driver training and the increased use of technology can help to prevent motorway accidents. Dr David Lewis, an independent consultant writing a book on driver behaviour, said last night: "Motoring is now simply too dangerous to be left to the motorists... the government cannot allow that to go on."

He says that electronic "buffers", which sense the distance of the vehicle in front, could prevent cars getting too close on crowded

motorways by automatically slowing them down if they encroached within a minimum distance. Speed warnings, which sound an alarm when the speed limit is exceeded, could also be introduced.

Dr John Groeger, who works in the Cambridge-based applied psychology department of the Medical Research

Council, says that simple inexperience means that drivers are unable to cope with unusual conditions. He said the driving test was not extensive enough and suggested that drivers should take tests based on specific areas of experience, such as passing a motorway test. The speed of drivers, he said, was absorbed by the lack of noise, the warmth of the car and the distraction of the radio.

On motorways, that feeling of security over long periods gave way to "highway hypnosis" as the motorist fell into a trance-like state. When an emergency happened, drivers often over-reacted, slamming on the brakes and forcing drivers behind into a series of collisions.

Dr Groeger said: "Our ability to assess the risks diminishes because many of us feel confident behind the wheel. Many people think they are wonderful drivers, which makes them drive aggressively although they do not want to be involved in accidents. On motorways, that situation is aggravated because there is little stimulation."

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Americans think Europeans are mad to drive the speed they do, particularly since European cars are so small and underpowered by American standards. But pile-ups occur fairly often on US roads, nearly always in fog.

THE pile-up on the M4 yesterday reminded French officials of an accident on July 31, 1982, when 53 people were killed, including 44 children, and led to sweeping reforms of traffic regulations. The accident, near the town of Beaune north of the city of Dijon on the main autoroute to the south, involved a bus and shocked French opinion.

Last June, 14 British tourists were killed in two separate road accidents in France on the same day, including 11 who died when the bus they were travelling at 77 mph fell

into a ditch and overturned after one of its tyres blew up. Germany is still divided by its road accident statistics, and unification saw a staggering 139 per cent increase last year in the number of fatal crashes on the 1,200 miles of motorways in the east, where a maximum speed limit of 62.5 mph is still in force. There are 5,300 miles of motorway in western Germany, with speed limits on around 10 per cent of them and a recommended, unenforced, top speed of 81 mph on the rest.

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## Police agree £105,000 damages for judge

By DAVID YOUNG

A CROWN court judge has been awarded £105,000 in damages from the Metropolitan Police in settlement of an action for malicious prosecution on a kerb-crawling charge and abuse of public office.

Colin Hart-Levinton, QC, aged 54, claimed that the police had prosecuted him on the basis of fabricated evidence, his counsel told the High Court in London yesterday. The police denied liability but agreed to pay damages and all Mr Hart-Levinton's legal costs.

Mr Hart-Levinton was convicted of soliciting women for the purpose of prostitution and fined £200 at Wells Street magistrates court in February 1986 on the evidence of two police officers. He had his conviction quashed at Knightsbridge crown court in March 1986 after his counsel complained that the police evidence showed "inconsistencies, inaccuracies and incredible lies".

Mr John McDonnell, QC, for Mr Hart-Levinton, said yesterday that his client, after his acquittal, had made a complaint to the Police Complaints Authority and instituted legal proceedings against the Metropolitan Police. As a result of the complaint, one of the officers was found guilty in disciplinary proceedings of "knowingly making a false statement which detailed events which he did not know to be true", and the other was "directed to be advised by a senior officer".

Mr Hart-Levinton, in a statement issued after the hearing, said: "No one can now doubt my innocence. I

have been acquitted and have been paid compensation by the Metropolitan Police."

The Metropolitan Police said: "The commissioner wishes to point out that liability in the action brought by Mr Hart-Levinton is denied and that the action has been settled as a result of both parties' desire to seek a compromise."

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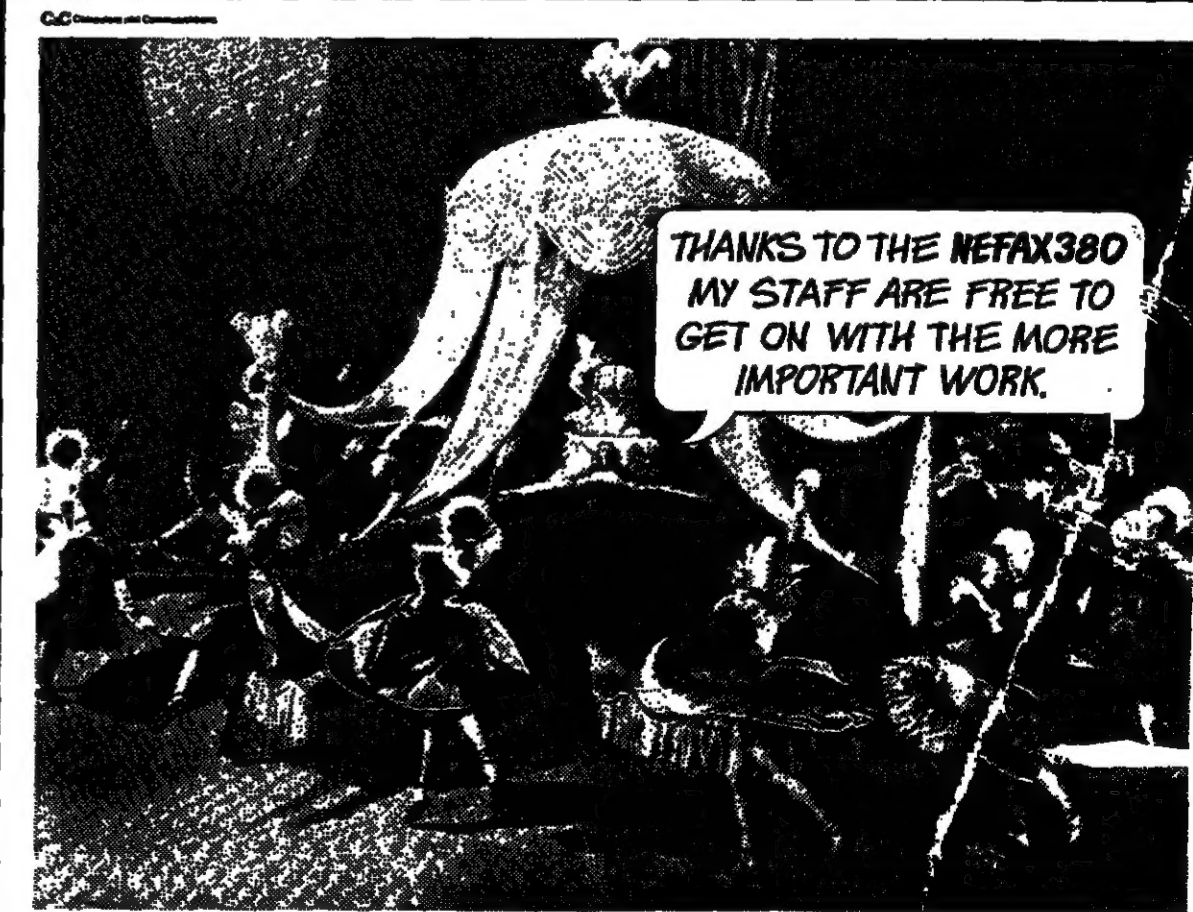
## Conviction of Six 'had firm basis'

By STEWART TENDLER

THE Birmingham Six were convicted on overwhelming evidence in 1975 and rightly lost their appeal in 1987 due to the strength of the case against them, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday as counsel for the Director of Public Prosecutions replied to the new appeal. On one view, a formidable case remained, Graham Boal, senior treasury counsel, said.

He added that the DPP accepted that the convictions could no longer be considered both "safe" and "satisfactory", but suggested there was a distinction between the two words. The DPP felt the convictions to be unsatisfactory, "but the court should be slower to find if they are unsafe". Mr Boal said that, where a retrial was impractical, the distinction might let a court quash a conviction although satisfied as to guilt.

Lord Justice Lloyd said Mr Boal seemed to support the appeal case on one hand, and on the other to be engaged in "damage limitation". The appeal continues today.



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## Saturday Review

Yes, prime ministers

'One of the great survivors, he has ridden the crest of yet another political wave, his feet are on the board and he is still surfing'

Kenneth Baker, once wet, once dry, talks to Polly Toynbee about John Major's middle way and his own role in its realisation

Here isn't the News

Charles Bremner on the violent strike that crippled the legendary New York Daily News, now poised between extinction and revival

Is you is or is you ain't?

Peter Ackroyd finds evidence that American lyricists are an insecure breed

Saturday's Times: order it to be sure of it



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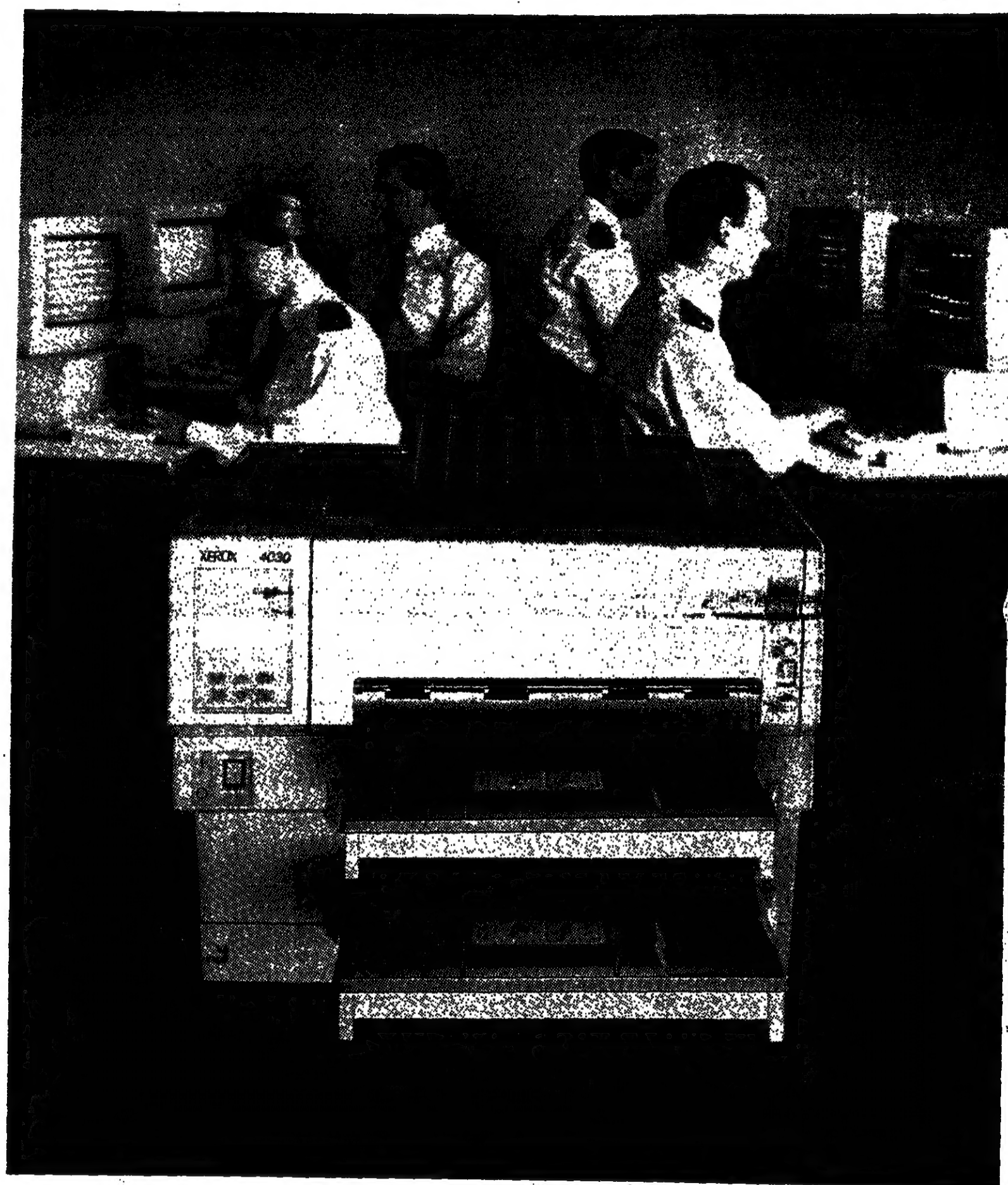
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## High-calibre governors demanded for prisons

By QUENTIN COWDREY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PRISON governors publicly accepted yesterday that urgent action was needed to improve the quality of senior jail staff. The acknowledgement came on the second day of the Prison Governors' Association annual conference as delegates called for the creation of a high-level working party to identify ways of enhancing the calibre of governor grades. Some delegates

said standards began to deteriorate after graduates were barred from entering the prison service as trainee governors. Others said the rot started in 1987 when chief prison officers were upgraded to management.

Allen Davis, a governor attached to the prison department's London headquarters, issued a warning that more career civil servants would make improvements were made soon. Many governor grades needed to adjust their attitude, style, performance and perceptions. "Our concern is that the future senior leaders of this service must come from within our own ranks. The harsh reality is they are not there in sufficient quantity. This needs to be addressed urgently."

## Kasparov record in danger

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

GARY Kasparov's record of never achieving less than a tie for first place in every important chess tournament he has contested is under threat from Vassily Ivanchuk, a 21-year-old Russian. With one round left in the Linares tournament in Spain, Ivanchuk has nine points out of 12, leading Kasparov by half a point.

Jon Speelman, Britain's only representative in what has been billed as the strongest chess tournament to be held, lies fourth with seven points, probably the best tournament performance of his life.

Scores with one round to go are: Ivanchuk, 9 pts; Kasparov, 8½; Alexander Beliavsky (USSR), 8.



Speelman: giving the performance of his life

## Girls kick soccer rules into touch

By JOHN YOUNG AND JOHN GOODBODY

IT MAY be some time before female footballers will be allowed to play alongside men in the World Cup but a small step towards that goal has been taken by the Football Association, which has decreed that girls under the age of 11 will be allowed to play in mixed school football teams.

The news will clearly delight Gemma Carswell, aged nine, who earlier this year learned that she would no longer be able to captain Hook Athletic, in Hampshire, when it moves into a new league next season. It will come too late, however, for twins Aimee and Kate Nichols, aged 11, of Poole, Dorset, who were banned this season in their last year at primary school.

The relaxation of the rules will assuage the controversy over the ban on girls in interschool competitions. David

Bloomfield, a spokesman for the association, said: "We recognise that there have been problems in the past with schools reluctant to play against teams which include girls, but we think this move reflects the vast interest that has grown up among young girls wanting to play the game."

"Up to the age of 11 seems a natural time for girls to play alongside boys... After the age of 11, the differences in physical strength become apparent, and we want to protect the girl players."

The change will be particularly welcome in rural areas, where many junior schools find that they have been unable to field teams unless they play mixed sides. Asked yesterday whether the age limit might be extended, Mr Bloomfield said that he thought it unlikely.

## £150,000 for injury

A social worker who knocked his head on a low door frame at a children's home accepted £150,000 damages from his former employer, The Church of England Children's Society, in an out-of-court settlement yesterday.

The High Court at Nottingham had been told that Philip Gibbs, aged 42, of Hayling Island, Hampshire, was depressed and forgetful after suffering minor brain damage in the accident seven years ago and he had not worked since. The 6ft 2in social worker walked into the 6ft door frame St Monica's Home, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, after a child distracted him.

## Firm fined

John P Raymond Engineering, of Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire, was fined £1,500 by Nottingham crown court yesterday over an accident in which a 16-year-old trainee lost a leg.

## Monkey business

Two rare woolly monkeys born in Britain are being sent to Brazil from Looe, Cornwall, to teach orphaned babies of the same species the art of forest survival.

## Seaman hurt

Stuart Bickhall, a 25-year-old seaman, was airlifted to hospital from a Scottish trawler 30 miles off Liverpool yesterday after being injured when a cable snapped and struck him on the head.

## Inquest on boy

Nabil Iqbal, aged two, of Stratford, east London, died from inflammation of the heart after having chicken pox, an inquest at Walthamstow was told yesterday. A verdict of death from natural causes was recorded.

## Jet ski curb

Jet skiers who endanger holiday-makers by racing near beaches will have their speed measured by a radar gun and be chased by a fisheries protection boat in a move planned by tourist chiefs on East Devon district council.

## Pigs die in fire

More than 130 pigs were burnt alive yesterday in a barn fire at Gages Farm, Little Maplestead, Essex.

## Former coalfield to fuel a green and pleasant land

A DERELICT colliery near Doncaster is to be made the site of the world's first ecology museum as part of the "greening" of 240 acres of the South Yorkshire coalfield. The overall project, which will create an important tourist attraction, will cost up to £60 million.

Doncaster council is receiving a 100 per cent grant from the government's derelict land fund to buy Cadeby colliery, Conisthorpe, from British Coal for £1 million so it can be turned into an attraction called the Earth Centre. There are plans for nature walks, an organic farm and garden centre, a 360-degree cinema screen, a children's playground, an art gallery, a conference centre, a green shopping area, a camp site and a square for cafes and street performances.

At the centre's heart will be the Museum of the Earth, 12 galleries examining population and health, transport, energy, climate, forests, food, atmosphere, oceans and climate.

Jonathan Smales, former administrative director of Greenpeace and the project's director, said: "This is a

Simon Tait reports on plans to turn a Yorkshire pit into an ecology centre two years after the last miner left

serious attempt to make ecology mainstream, sensual and exciting, tackling the biggest issues which have faced the human race. We want to banish the idea that environmental issues belong in some garden shed and instead present a world view which is not just museological natural history."

Miners left the site two years ago and a half-hearted attempt at landscaping to create a civic park has been abandoned. Two of Britain's most industrially polluted rivers, the Don and Dearne, join on the site's south-western borders and have already reclaimed a large part of the land. The outstanding man-made feature to survive is a Victorian railway viaduct.

The area surrounding Cadeby is already a wildlife centre. A nature reserve, managed by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, adjoins the

site and there are three adjacent sites of special scientific interest.

Doncaster will hand over the colliery to Museum of the Earth Limited, a company limited by guarantee which has applied for charity status. Experts have been commissioned, including architects, scientists and lawyers, to put together a detailed plan that will be presented to the main funders: the government, the EC and industrial sponsors. If the plans are approved and if an initial £25 million can be pledged by next spring, the Earth Centre could open in 1995.

The area where the rivers have started nature's return is to become a peace garden, man's presence being marked by a sculpture. An underwater observatory in one of the rivers will show life returning to the industrial waterways.

Gordon Gallimore, leader of Doncaster council, said: "Coal mining was the chief industry here but it has gone and we are having to devise a strategy for replacing it. Tourism is the major part of it and the ecology project is vital to our strategy."



Jonathan Smales surveying the rail viaduct that will form part of the ecology park



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NATIONAL TRAINING AWARDS HAVE THEIR REWARDS



# Lamont put Major in No 10 — now he must keep him there



Kinnock: his team ready for a jobless initiative

By ROBIN OAKLEY  
POLITICAL EDITOR

AS MANAGER of his leadership campaign, Norman Lamont put John Major into Downing Street as Margaret Thatcher's successor.

His political task in presenting his Budget on Tuesday is to keep him there after an election. And nobody entrusted with that task would want to start from where Mr Lamont is starting now, with interest rates still sky high, unemployment increasing and the balance of payments deficit proving stubborn.

With the latest possible date for an election July 7 next year, Mr Lamont is the first Chancellor since Sir Geoffrey Howe in the early Eighties to be introducing a

Budget amid a full-blown recession, a recession that he and John Major first of all insisted would not happen and then underestimated when it did. He faces the further complication that he is the first Chancellor to introduce a Budget with Britain in the exchange-rate mechanism.

The measure of his task is that Mr Major's succession to Mrs Thatcher has seen a swing of 64 per cent in the popularity of the Tory leader. But the accompanying swing from Labour to Conservatives has been only a tenth of that, at 6 per cent. Good war or no, Mr Major's "halo effect" has not extended to the government's economic policies.

What makes things worse for

Mr Lamont is that he cannot even be certain when the general election will be. The setting of a two-week Easter recess means that the government has ruled out May 2, local election day. But June remains a runner if the poll tax replacement pleases and if those May elections go better than expected. So does October. So does next spring.

So if he has anything to "give away" when does he time the benefits to come through? Should he concentrate on measures to reduce unemployment that just might work through in time for 1992 or does he put more money in the pockets of those who have a job in time for June?

There are other constraints too.

Those green aspirations kindled by Mrs Thatcher will need to be satisfied. There will need to be discernible progress towards Mr Major's classless society. There will need above all to be a little fun. The fun perhaps is the easiest thing to provide. Mr Major's question time eagerness about a national lottery suggests that the Chancellor has it in mind to introduce one, especially since the single market will see continental lottery tickets available in Britain.

Public opinion is in favour of increased taxes on alcohol and tobacco. But the crucial task for Mr Lamont is to maintain the drive to curb inflation, so little action can be expected there. He could, however, at little cost

increase the incentives to motorists to use unleaded petrol.

But what to do on unemployment? Labour's rushing out yesterday of a temporary employment scheme suggests that Neil Kinnock's men may have wind of a government initiative in that field. Certainly, Mr Lamont will need to offer some hope.

Labour party research and Tory anecdotal evidence both suggest that the electorate that was ready to forgive the government for the rising unemployment of the early Eighties on the ground that Britain needed a short sharp shock is now less forgiving, arguing that after 11 years there can be only one party to blame. People believe that that period of

misery was supposed to have been a one-off. Mr Lamont's main problem, however, is that Labour's able Treasury team are correct in insisting that this is a recession made in Downing Street. The interest rate squeeze that has occasioned the recession and the ERM entry are seen within the government as the solution to the recurring problem of inflation. That is where Mr Lamont's fetters are really chafing.

The government will not be able to launch upon an election with a hope of winning, whatever the opinion polls say, until economic optimism rises.

Nicholas Ridley, page 12

## Pressure grows for poll change

By OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

### POLL REFORM

LABOUR campaigners for electoral reform claimed yesterday to be the fastest-growing pressure group inside the party, with 1,300 members and the support of at least 40 MPs.

The working party on electoral reform, set up after last year's Labour party conference decided that it should look at Westminster elections, has since been empowered by the national executive to look at alternative voting systems for local government too, and the Scottish Labour party has voted to reject the first-past-the-post system for a Scottish parliament.

Jeff Rooker, the front-bencher, said yesterday that the Labour working party would produce an interim report setting out options for elections at all levels by the summer. At a Commons press conference to launch a pamphlet, *Arguments for Electoral Reform*, Robin Cook, the shadow health spokesman, said that the present unhealthy electoral arrangements, if left in place, threatened to bring down the democratic system.

At the last election, he said, three out of five voters had supported parties that were opposed to the poll tax and yet Britain had still seen the tax imposed. At Ribbles Valley and in other elections people were encouraged to vote against the candidate they did not want to see elected rather than for the one they wanted.

Mr Cook said that electoral reform campaigners in the Labour party were not defeatists. Last year's conference had taken the surprising decision against the platform's advice to include Westminster elections in the study of voting systems after a year when Labour had led in the opinion polls by 10 per cent.

Marjorie Mowlem, a trade spokeswoman and a recent convert, said that people felt disfranchised because the results of an election were a foregone conclusion in all but 100-150 seats.

## Labour party calls for further interest rate cut in Budget

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND NICHOLAS WOOD

THE Labour party's economic team called yesterday for a further reduction in interest rates of one percentage point in the Budget to be presented on Tuesday. John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, said that it could be done without risk to Britain's position in the exchange-rate mechanism.

Presenting Labour's alternative package of proposals, Mr Smith said that they would raise extra revenue by ending the 2 per cent incentive for personal pensions (£619 million), reducing the subsidy on company cars (£500 million), withdrawing additional mortgage tax relief for top-rate taxpayers (£470 million) and withdrawing the subsidy for private health insurance for the elderly (£50 million).

The money saved in those areas would be used, Mr Smith said, in a programme concentrated on manufacturing investment, training and child care.

Labour would restore child benefit to the level of April 1987, since when it has been frozen except for an extra £1 for the oldest child, raising it to £9.55 a week for all children at a cost of £775 million. It would spend another £25 million on extending tax relief to all forms of child care provided by employers, such as partnership schemes with local authorities and private nurseries.

Labour would launch for a limited period an investment

### BUDGET PLANS

expansion scheme, an increased depreciation allowance targeted at boosting funds for investment in manufacturing industry. Margaret Beckett, a Treasury spokesman, said that the money could be found by closing tax loopholes for offshore trusts that cost the revenue more than £1,000 million a year. A growing business scheme would be financed by switching revenues from the business expansion scheme, which Labour criticises as being almost entirely devoted now to property schemes.

A further £885 million would go on reversing cuts in

the training programme, starting a temporary employment scheme and developing skills for the Nineties.

On green issues, Labour called for differential value-added tax rates for energy-efficient products, a graduated vehicle excise duty and steeper company car taxation.

The Liberal Democrats yesterday recommended a £1.9 billion boost for the economy in their Budget proposals. Education, training and public transport would be the main beneficiaries of proposed higher spending to be financed out of a combination of higher indirect taxes and increased borrowing. A packet of 20 cigarettes would go up by 20p and a pint of beer by 4p. Pressures on industry would be eased by more generous corporation tax allowances.

Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, also called for the Bank of England to be divorced from political control. He argued that independent control of monetary policy would make it easier to reduce interest rates.

Such a step would remove the "premium" on interest rates imposed by the markets to compensate for the government's tendency to vary the cost of borrowing for "short-term political considerations". Mr Beith said the pound should be moved into the narrow band of the ERM to underpin anti-inflationary policy by making clear that devaluation was not an option.

Overall, the Liberal Democrats want a £5 billion spending boost. That would be made up of £500 million extra on education, £900 million on training, £500 million on childcare and nursery schooling, £1.05 billion on public transport, mainly concentrated on higher investment by the railways, £700 million on full poll tax rebates for the poor, £500 million on tax breaks for industry, £600 million on more generous business rate transitional relief, and £250 million on environmental measures.



Beith: wants Bank outside political control



Smith: plan will not imperil Britain's ERM position

## Iraq 'cannot delay Middle East pact'

By JOHN WINDER

THE search for a Middle East settlement, justice for the Palestinians and security for the state of Israel need not wait on events in Iraq, Douglas Hurd, foreign secretary, said during Commons questions yesterday.

He was replying to Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C), who had said that there could be no question of a comprehensive Middle East peace conference on the future of the Palestinians while Saddam Hussein remained in power in Iraq. It was essential that Iraq should be represented, but "that evil man" could not be at the conference.

During earlier exchanges, Mr Hurd accepted that the Palestinians must be part of any Arab-Israeli settlement, but said that the present PLO leadership had substantially

weakened its authority by its support for the aggression of Saddam.

Sir David Steel, Liberal Democrat spokesman on foreign affairs, said that nobody should be able to dictate who represented the Palestinians. They should choose their own representatives.

Mr Hurd agreed and added that the Palestinians must be represented, otherwise there would be no point in a conference. All involved, including Israel, had to attend. That was why there had to be much preparation, which was in hand.

George Galloway (Glasgow, Hillhead, Lab) said that Mr Hurd could not seriously suggest that the PLO leadership had been weakened. He was caricaturing the Palestinian leadership.

## Peers to rebel on absent parents

By SHEILA GUNN  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

### CHILDREN

REBELLIONS by peers of all parties today could severely damage the government's scheme for forcing absent parents to pay maintenance.

The peers, supported by family and children's charities, complain that the bill setting up a child support agency to track down reluctant maintenance payers will do nothing to eliminate child poverty.

The agency scheme, based on an Australian system, was announced by the former prime minister Margaret Thatcher last year. Tony Newton, the social security secretary, predicts annual savings in benefits of about £300 million as single parents receive better maintenance payments.

The key revolts today are expected to centre on amendments to allow many parents to pursue maintenance payments through the courts instead of the proposed agency and to oppose the government's plan to dock benefits from single parents who refuse to disclose the names of their child's father.

Mr Newton has given assurances that the agency will preserve the confidentiality of the caring parent if there is a risk of violence. But he is pressing ahead with proposals for reducing the caring parent's benefits if the or he refuses to disclose the name to officials.

## Opencast mining criticised

By ROGER WOOD

RESTRICTIONS by a future Labour government to curb the spread of opencast mining were promised yesterday by Frank Dobson, shadow energy secretary, who said that any community with coal under ground was threatened.

Opencast mining was harmful to local communities and the environment, but the government had allowed it to get out of hand, Mr Dobson said. He accused operators of "roaming the countryside prospecting for opencast sites where no one has worked coal for decades". Labour's policy stops short of banning new opencast working but says that it will be allowed only where it benefits local communities.

Opencast mining was studied by the Flowers commission set up by the Labour government in 1979. The commission reported in 1981 that levels of opencast mining should be reduced. Since 1979, however, output from opencast mines had risen from nearly 13 million tonnes a year to 18.7 million tonnes in 1989, Mr Dobson said.



## Hoaxers to face seven years

Bomb hoaxers will face up to seven years in prison under proposals announced yesterday by Kenneth Baker, the home secretary. He said in a Commons written reply that amendments would be tabled to the criminal justice bill, now before the Lords, to raise the maximum sentence from five years to seven on conviction on indictment, and from three months to six on conviction in a magistrates' court.

He said that the change indicated the seriousness with which the offence was viewed.

## Arms sales 'indecent'

Gerald Kaufman, shadow foreign secretary, attacked as indecent moves by the West to sell arms to Middle East countries after the end of the Gulf war. It created the potential for further conflict in the region, he said.

Douglas Hurd, foreign secretary, said that there was a need for arms suppliers to discuss reasonable criteria for sales so as to prevent a situation where Saddam Hussein could build up an army of tanks nearly twice as large as the British and French force combined.

## Choice of Hain attacked



Labour's choice of Peter Hain (above) to fight the forthcoming Neath by-election came under sharp attack at question time. John Carlisle, Tory MP for Luton North, said that he used to spread tin tacks on rugby pitches as part of his anti-apartheid campaign.

**Parliament today** Commons (2.30): Questions: Northern Ireland; prime minister. Motion for Easter recess and consolidated fund bill when a variety of topics will be raised. Lords (3): Child support bill, committee, first day.

## Stricter rules for MPs

TIGHTER rules should be set for MPs on Commons select committees to prevent abuse from conflicts of interest between their parliamentary work and outside financial interests, the Commons committee on members' interests said yesterday (Sheila Gunn writes).

The committee revived the suggestion that committee members and chairmen should receive an allowance as compensation. Although the procedure committee opposes the idea, its sister committee, chaired by Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, wants a further study.

The committee on members' interests recommended: a committee MP with a pecuniary interest should withdraw from a related enquiry; MPs should send the clerk details of all outside interests when appointed to a select committee; a ban on client relationships and business between a select committee and the department it shadows; and change of Commons rules to bar committee chairmen from holding a financial interest that conflicts with their committee or parliamentary work.

House of Commons Select Committee on Members' Interests: *First Report* (Stationery Office, £7.95).

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A high-contrast, black and white photograph. The right half of the image is dominated by a large, dark, and dense tree with a thick canopy. The left half of the image is mostly white and overexposed, showing a bright sky and a dark, silhouetted landscape. In the lower-left corner, there is a small, dark, rectangular shape that appears to be a building or a structure. The overall image has a grainy, high-contrast quality, similar to a photocopy or a solarized photograph.

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## PALESTINIANS

# Arafat envoy gives hint of new PLO peace initiative

By MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

AMID speculation that the Palestine Liberation Organisation is about to unveil a new peace initiative, a new round of talks will take place in London today between senior officials of the PLO and the Foreign Office.

The meeting will be between Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, and David Gore Booth, a Foreign Office assistant under-secretary for Middle East affairs. Yesterday Mr Abu Sharif abruptly cancelled a press conference he was due to hold in London today, at which he was expected to outline "new ideas" for solving the Palestinians' dispute with Israel. Earlier he had given a series of interviews in which he appeared to be presenting new PLO positions, but afterwards he accused his interviewers of distorting his views.

Senior PLO officials at the organisation's headquarters in Tunis said Mr Abu Sharif had been speaking out of turn.

There was speculation, however, that his statements were "trial balloons" floated on behalf of Mr Arafat and that his retraction of them reflected a power struggle in the PLO leadership.

Martin Benedict of Sky News said that after an on-camera interview dealing with the visit of James Baker, the American Secretary of State, to the Middle East, Mr Abu Sharif had told him that the PLO was preparing to launch a package of concessions aimed at enticing Israel to the negotiating table. Mr Benedict said Mr Abu Sharif had made four key points:

□ The PLO would drop its demand to be treated as equal partners in any talks with Israel and would be prepared to nominate as its representatives Palestinians who were not members of the PLO.  
□ The organisation would also be prepared to accept something less than the complete West Bank and Gaza strip for a Palestinian state

and would compromise with Israel over their common borders.

□ It would agree to the territory being demilitarised with the United Nations taking responsibility for security.  
□ It would not automatically be headed by Mr Arafat and the Palestinians would hold democratic elections to decide on their government.

Mr Abu Sharif, in a later interview on the BBC World Service, said Palestine representatives should negotiate the borders of a Palestinian state, which the PLO believed should include a corridor through Israel between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

"We will be ready to discuss demilitarisation of the region as a whole, or any kind of guarantees that will ensure the safety and security not only of the Palestinian state but also of the Israeli state," he said. East Jerusalem could be the capital of the state of Palestine, Israel says it will not negotiate any division of Jerusalem. Israel annexed predominantly Arab east Jerusalem after capturing it in the 1967 Middle East war.

In a statement issued by the PLO, Mr Abu Sharif said the organisation's general peace initiative did not exclude the possibility that it would negotiate details that "might include a short transitional stage under UN auspices and the necessity to have a corridor between Gaza and the West Bank."

Mr Abu Sharif's meeting with Mr Gore Booth will be one of a series at official level between the PLO and the Foreign Office. Ministerial level contacts have been curtailed following the PLO's decision to support Iraq in its invasion of Kuwait.

Mr Abu Sharif told Jordan radio that the statements attributed to him by Sky News were "absolutely not true". He reiterated the PLO's support for the United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which include a land-for-peace agreement as the basis for settling the Arab-Israeli dispute.

"What we said is that we expect the implementation of UN resolutions 242 and 338 fully and that remains a main condition from the Palestinian people," said Mr Abu Sharif.

Resolution 242 calls for Israel to withdraw from the lands it captured from Jordan, Egypt and Syria during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. It also says Israel has the right to live within secure borders and at peace with its Arab neighbours. Resolution 338 calls for the implementation of 242.

Mr Abu Sharif said Palestinian leaders who met James Baker, the American Secretary of State, in Jerusalem had made clear "the PLO's continued representation of the Palestinian people and that there will not be alternative leadership."

● STRASBOURG: Jacques Poos, acting president of the European Community, has called on Israelis and Palestinians to "go to the negotiating table", after detecting a new flexibility on both sides of the dispute over Palestine during a visit to the Middle East last week (see page 12).

Mr Poos based his new-found optimism on his talks with a group of Palestinian representatives from the occupied territories led by Faisal Hussein. He believed that the Palestinians were stepping in the right direction and felt they could be weakening their demands on Israel in order to facilitate an agreement.



Grim task: workmen digging fresh graves in Kuwait City's Raqqa cemetery after the discovery of more bodies of people killed during Iraq's occupation

## KUWAIT

## Cemetery betrays the brutality of invasion

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN KUWAIT CITY

DAY turned into night at the cemetery as black plumes of smoke from oil-field fires billowed across the graveyard, leaving oily deposits on the yellow overalls of the seven grave-diggers. With the sun obscured, the sight of row upon row of individual and mass graves was somehow more chilling.

In the past few months, the cemetery at Raqqa, 16 miles south of Kuwait City has become the final resting place of hundreds of Kuwaitis tortured and butchered by the Iraqis during the occupation of the emirate. More than 50 handicapped children are buried at Raqqa in one 100ft-long trench grave, according to the grave-diggers. Where the children came from and why they died remains a mystery.

In one corner, some distance from the graves of Kuwaitis, lies a long trench containing the remains of 30 to 40 Iraqi soldiers. It, like all the graves in the cemetery, is thinly covered with sand.

The bodies are still coming. According to the grave-diggers, there are ten on average every day, the victims of continuing violence: Iraqi soldiers, Kuwaitis and Palestinians. Some may have died in the last hours of the war, their bodies only recently discovered; others have been freshly killed.

Two grave-diggers said that about half of the bodies which have been delivered in the past few days are Palestinians. "Their hands are tied behind their backs," said one. "Cigarette burns on them. Some legs broken." He said that many of the bodies had gunshot wounds to the chest. His testimony was compelling, primarily because he is not a Palestinian, but a Kuwaiti.

He said the bodies were delivered to the cemetery by ambulances from hospitals where they had been taken after being found dumped on the streets of Kuwait City.

Yesterday Michael Weston, the British ambassador to Kuwait, said he had little doubt that victimisation of Palestinians was being carried out *ad hoc* and without the blessing of the Kuwaiti government. "The crown prince has told us that the government intends to treat the Palestinians within the law," he said. The authorities were aware of the dangers of civil disturbance in Kuwait and wanted to do as much as they could to lessen hostilities. "With so many weapons around, it could be nasty," Mr Weston said.

There is little time for ceremony at Raqqa cemetery: the bodies are buried as they arrive, without any ritual washing. If bodies come in a group, they are deposited in mass graves.

The seven men who work here are not grave-diggers by profession. One, Saad al-Ganani, aged 40, only started in August soon after the Iraqi invasion. He had been an assistant engineer with the ministry of public works.

Mr al-Ganani points to the first three rows of one large patch of the cemetery. "Those were dug before the Iraqis came," he said. He then waves his hand to cover the bulk of the remaining rows, about 25, and indicated that those were dug during the occupation. The last four rows are the new ones. Each row contains about 30 bodies.

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## DIPLOMACY

## Baker's peace tour wins friends

By PAUL ADAMS IN JERUSALEM AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Assad of Syria and James Baker, the American Secretary of State, discussed postwar regional security, terrorism, hostages in Lebanon and economic development, here yesterday, American and Syrian sources said.

Mr Baker, who is on a ten-day tour of the Middle East, also visited the old city of Damascus and attended a two-hour working lunch with his Syrian counterpart Farouk al-Shara. The sources gave no further details on the subjects of discussion.

Mr Baker is to meet Faris Ruwayz, the Lebanese foreign minister, this morning to discuss Lebanon's role in the new security order after the end of the war with Iraq. He is also to discuss the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 425, which calls for an immediate and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from territories it occupies in southern Lebanon, Beirut sources said. Mr Baker goes to Moscow today.

His first trip to Israel was conducted amid smiles and expressions of satisfaction from Israelis and Palestinians. But few observers have any illusions that Washington's involvement in the region is a passing enthusiasm.

"The kid gloves have still not been taken off," wrote David Kimche, a former director-general of the foreign ministry, in yesterday's *Maariv* newspaper. "Until now, there have only been feelers. The serious work, minus the kid gloves, will begin in the next round."

The next round may not be too long in coming. Washington seems anxious to capitalise on the sense of mutability engendered by the Gulf war. Some Israelis speculate that the purpose of Mr Baker's trip to Moscow will be to encourage the Soviet Union to support a regional peace conference.

Palestinians, too, seem eager to encourage momentum. Despite the confusion surrounding Bassam Abu Sharif's comments to the media, Palestinians in Jerusalem are expecting to see fresh proposals from Tunis.

"We are not in need of a new leader," Faisal Hussein, a leading Palestinian nationalist, said yesterday. "We need a new initiative. Mr Arafat has the ability to provide that initiative." Mr Hussein described Mr Abu Sharif's statements as an experiment that didn't work. "Some balloons go up. Some explode," he said. Mr Hussein said Israel had to withdraw from the occupied territories before the two sides could talk about final arrangements.

"Every centimetre that was occupied in 1967 must be for the Palestinians," he said.



Baker: banking on Soviet relations with Israel

## Britain calls for removal of Iraqi missiles

New York - Britain is insisting at the United Nations that a final end to hostilities in the Gulf be conditional on Iraq destroying its weapons of mass destruction (James Bone writes).

A provision seeking the elimination of Iraq's ballistic missiles and chemical and biological weapons is one of several points Britain is trying to insert in the next security council resolution, which is expected before Easter. The resolution will probably establish a two-stage process, declaring a "definitive end to hostilities" after Iraq complies with certain conditions.

Britain and the United States have begun preliminary drafting, and are expected to begin consultations with the other three permanent members of the security council - China, France and the Soviet Union - next week. The five powers' draft will then go to the full council for a vote.

John Major made the destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction a goal of British policy soon after allied forces declared a ceasefire. He told the House of Commons: "Through the United Nations we shall seek a commitment from Iraq to destroy under international supervision all its ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction and not to acquire such weapons in future."

Britain tried and failed to include such a demand in the first security council resolution after the ceasefire, resolution 686. America opposed the provision because the allies were trying to persuade Iraqi commanders to attend a battlefield meeting.

## Ramadan rules

Nicosia - Saudi Arabia may deport non-Muslims who do not fast during Ramadan, the Islamic fasting month which begins in mid-March. But the government did not mention Western troops still in the country. It said non-Muslims should not eat or smoke in public during dawn to dusk fasting hours. (Reuter)

## Greek outrage

Athens - The Greek government described yesterday's bomb attack in which an American air force sergeant was killed as "cowardly murder" and pledged to track down the killers. Ronald Stewart, aged 35, died two hours after the bomb went off as he was entering his house in the Athens suburb of Glyfada.

## Sharon returns

Jerusalem - Ariel Sharon, the Israeli housing minister, has agreed to resume chairmanship of a cabinet committee that oversees resettlement of Soviet immigrants after resigning this week over aid cuts. His return comes after they were reinstated, and an appeal from Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister. (AP)

## Asylum sought

Madrid - Arshad Tawfiq Ismail, Iraq's ambassador in Madrid, turned over weapons in his embassy to police before seeking diplomatic asylum, according to the newspaper, ABC. The diplomat also burned papers. He is reportedly under police protection. (AP)

## Exodus halted

Jerusalem - Ethiopia has stopped its Jews from emigrating to Israel in an attempt to pressure Tel Aviv into providing military aid to help fight its worsening civil war, according to a spokesman for Israel's Ethiopian Jews. Some Ethiopians in Israel have waited since 1984 for families to join them. (Reuter)

## ABBEE NATIONAL INTEREST RATES

### Change of Interest Rates

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With effect from 15th March 1991 the rates of interest listed below will apply to savings and investment accounts both new and existing.

|                                      | Net Rate for Interest | Gross Rate for Interest | Net Equivalent Rate for Interest |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                                      | Before April 1991     | From April 1991         | From April 1991                  |
| <b>STERLING ASSET</b>                |                       |                         |                                  |
| (Annual Interest)                    |                       |                         |                                  |
| £25,000 plus                         | 10.05                 | 12.90                   | 9.68                             |
| £10,000 up to £24,999                | 9.80                  | 12.60                   | 9.45                             |
| £1,000 up to £9,999                  | 9.35                  | 12.00                   | 9.00                             |
| (Monthly Interest)                   |                       |                         |                                  |
| £25,000 plus                         | 9.61                  | 12.19                   | 9.14                             |
| £10,000 up to £24,999                | 9.39                  | 11.93                   | 8.95                             |
| £1,000 up to £9,999                  | 8.97                  | 11.39                   | 8.54                             |
| Annual Bonus                         | 0.25                  | 0.34                    | 0.23                             |
| <b>INSTANT SAVER</b>                 |                       |                         |                                  |
| (Annual Interest)                    |                       |                         |                                  |
| £25,000 plus                         | 9.60                  | 12.80                   | 9.60                             |
| £10,000 up to £24,999                | 9.41                  | 12.55                   | 9.41                             |
| £5,000 up to £9,999                  | 8.96                  | 11.95                   | 8.96                             |
| £2,500 up to £4,999                  | 8.74                  | 11.65                   | 8.74                             |
| £500 up to £2,499                    | 8.63                  | 11.50                   | 8.63                             |
| £1 up to £499                        | 8.23                  | 8.30                    | 8.23                             |
| <b>CURRENT ACCOUNT</b>               |                       |                         |                                  |
| (Monthly Interest)                   | 4.50                  | 5.75                    | 4.31                             |
| <b>HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNT</b>  |                       |                         |                                  |
| (Annual Interest)                    |                       |                         |                                  |
| £25,000 plus                         | 8.97                  | 11.50                   | 8.63                             |
| £10,000 up to £24,999                | 8.46                  | 10.85                   | 8.14                             |
| £2,500 up to £9,999                  | 7.96                  | 10.05                   | 7.54                             |
| £1,000 up to £2,499                  | 7.41                  | 9.50                    | 7.13                             |
| (Monthly Interest)                   |                       |                         |                                  |
| £25,000 plus                         | 8.62                  | 10.93                   | 8.20                             |
| £10,000 up to £24,999                | 8.15                  | 10.35                   | 7.76                             |
| £2,500 up to £9,999                  | 7.57                  | 9.61                    | 7.21                             |
| £1,000 up to £2,499                  | 7.17                  | 9.11                    | 6.83                             |
| <b>RETIREMENT INVESTMENT ACCOUNT</b> |                       |                         |                                  |
| (Personal Pension Plan)              |                       | Gross Rate PA %         |                                  |
| £20,000 plus                         | 13.85                 |                         |                                  |
| £15,000 up to £19,999                | 13.40                 |                         |                                  |
| £10,000 up to £14,999                | 13.00                 |                         |                                  |
| £5,000 up to £9,999                  | 12.60                 |                         |                                  |
| £2,000 up to £4,999                  | 12.00                 |                         |                                  |
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## GENEVA CONVENTION

## Plan to save environment

By MICHAEL BRYN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

A PROPOSAL has been launched to draw up a fifth Geneva convention outlawing the destruction of the environment as a weapon of war.

A conference to be held in London in June will draw up legal instruments to add the protection of the environment to the existing Geneva protocols protecting human victims of armed conflict. The organisers hope ultimately to get the agreement of all five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, to ensure that no belligerent can cause an environmental catastrophe on the scale of the burning of Kuwaiti oil wells by President Saddam Hussein.

The proposal for a new convention has been put forward by Glen Plant, a lecturer at the London School of

Economics, and is supported by the new Institute for Environmental Law and Policy, the University of London Centre for Defence Studies and Greenpeace International.

The organisers hope that representatives from foreign and defence ministries of the leading powers, academics, experts from international organisations and international lawyers will attend.

Dr Plant said the Gulf conflict had shown how natural resources could be used as weapons or instruments of revenge in war, with lasting consequences. He said other recent conflicts had seen the mass destruction by defoliation, burning and cratering of forests and agricultural land, the breaching of large dams and extensive bombing of

industrial targets. All often resulted in environmental damage.

Existing Geneva conventions could be stretched to cover the environment, but not adequately. They set the threshold at which destruction was prohibited too high; they did not tie prohibitions to the protection of the environment; they permitted broad exceptions; and they were not adhered to by a significant number of states, including the big military powers.

The conference hopes to draw up a draft which one country will adopt as a national proposal to be put before the world community. The protocol could then be presented to the UN for ratification by as many countries as possible.

## BRITISH FORCES

## Gallant actions recalled

FROM MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, IN KUWAIT CITY

THE incident in which nine British soldiers were killed by an American A10 anti-tank aircraft during the Gulf ground offensive was also the scene of extraordinary bravery, it has emerged.

As the first of two Warrior infantry fighting vehicles was hit by Maverick precision-guided missiles, the crew of the other Warrior began climbing out to help their colleagues. The gunner of the second Warrior, Fusilier Simon Bakker, aged 20, leapt from his vehicle and ran across to try to save his friend, who was the gunner in the burning vehicle.

Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Larpent, commander of the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, said: "He was trying to open the

hatch to get his mate out. But he was hit by shrapnel when there was a secondary explosion. He was wounded in the legs." He added: "There were some gallant actions which I hope will be recognised."

Apart from the nine dead, 11 were wounded during the incident. Both Warriors were gutted. "It was a really big shock," Colonel Larpent said. "Immediately after the incident we had another operation to plan, which kept us all going. But 16 hours later we started to feel the effects of losing those nine soldiers. We had a short, sharp service in the field."

The two A10s involved should never have been in the area. They should have been flying further east. Both the Warriors had special red lights

pointing towards the sky which was supposed to prevent "blue on blue" friendly fire. Colonel Larpent added: "There were lots of soldiers in the back of Warriors who saw less of the war than their mothers did at home."

One of the reasons for this was the success of the allied air campaign in destroying the Iraqi soldiers' willingness and ability to fight. The A10s played one of the most significant roles in the air war.

● RIYADH: A Red Cross aircraft carrying the remains of 14 allied soldiers killed in the Gulf war arrived in Saudi Arabia from Baghdad yesterday, the American military command announced. They were taken to an American mortuary at the Dhahran air base.

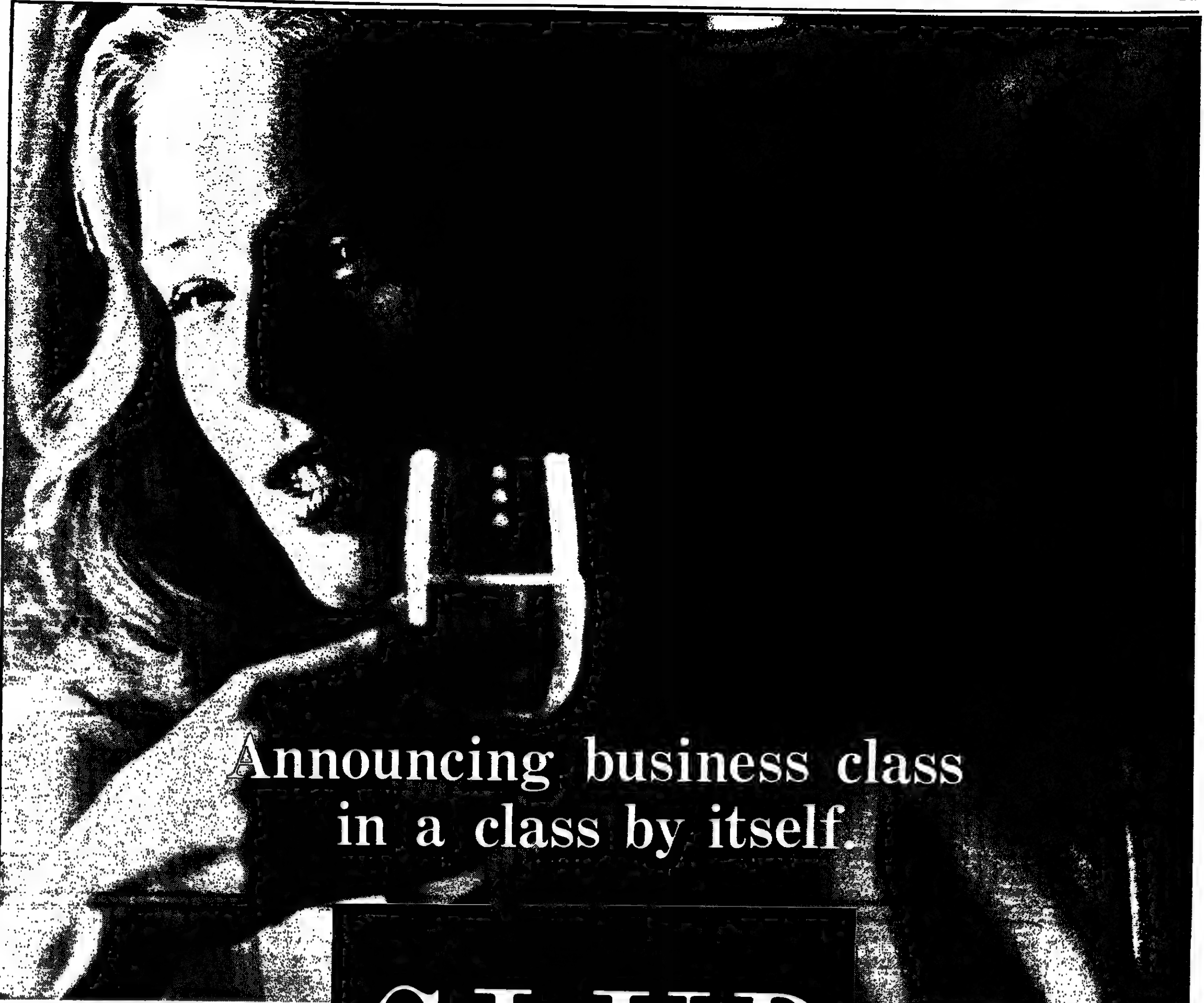


Baker's peace tour wins friends

Britain calls for removal of Iraqi missiles



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# Kazakhstan leader quietly embarks on road to free market

THE leader of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, has presented local Communist party and government officials with a blueprint for privatising the republic's economy, more radical and more comprehensive than anything so far ventured by any Soviet republic. He has been accused of taking Kazakhstan on the direct route to capitalism.

According to his own account, he stood his ground in the way that only a leader as confident in his power as Mr Nazarbayev could. "I said, 'to hell with where we are going, capitalism or wherever, let's just improve things, let's go forward'."

With the memory of his recent skirmish still fresh, he thumped on the desk and said: "I'll tell you, our workers are three times more exploited than workers under capitalism," and he elaborated on his vision of a Kazakhstan dotted with shops and hairdressers and small businesses. Even the idea of reviving the foreign mining concessions that Kazakhstan had before the 1917 revolution found favour.

Mr Nazarbayev's power and confidence are sufficient for him not to worry what others think. As well as being president of Kazakhstan he is also first secretary of its Communist party, but he does not let this cramp his style. In Kazakhstan, he said, "we all understand that the Communist party is a real political force. Perhaps because of our oriental ways, there will be no swift turn."

He went on: "If you know how to use the party then you can work through it. It strengthens you and you strengthen it." None the less, he is reducing the role of the party and removing it from economic management, quite deliberately.

Mr Nazarbayev is a regional politician widely suspected of harbouring national ambitions. A liberal Moscow newspaper recently described him as "moving around the Kremlin with the unhurried gait of a ruler ... restrained and collected".

## Nursultan Nazarbayev's radical blueprint for economic privatisation has put Kazakhstan on the political map, Mary Dejevsky reports from Alma Ata

the party and removing it from economic management, quite deliberately.

Mr Nazarbayev is a regional politician widely suspected of harbouring national ambitions. A liberal Moscow newspaper recently described him as "moving around the Kremlin with the unhurried gait of a ruler ... restrained and collected".

He also possesses the combination of political shrewdness, energy and cunning that characterised President Gorbachev in the early years of perestroika. Mr Nazarbayev, at 51, is nine years

younger than the Soviet president, and it may not have been only out of personal respect that he digressed from a question in a recent television interview to congratulate Mr Gorbachev on his 60th birthday.

So far, the Kazakhstan leader has remained loyal to his republic. Many say it would be tragic if he were to leave for a job at the centre. But Mr Nazarbayev has been tempted, and may be again. Over the past two years he has been nominated as chairman of the Soviet parliament, deputy chairman of parliament and dep-

uty general secretary of the Soviet Communist party; on each occasion he withdrew.

In his confident manner, enthusiasm for radical economic policies and openness to new ideas, Mr Nazarbayev is often seen as an original Boris Yeltsin, but he is a more tactical and accomplished politician. He prefers the quiet approach.

Of his privatisation plans, he says he wants to set up a few "model private enterprises" so that people can see how they work and want to emulate them. "But we must do it quietly, without any fuss."

He used the same strategy to great effect last year in putting Kazakhstan on the national map. The republic was one of the first, after the centre, to establish a state presidency, and one of the first to declare its sovereignty. In

both cases, Mr Nazarbayev said, the centre at first took no notice. Of the presidency, he said, they thought it was just another example of our oriental customs and we would carry on as before. But we did not.

"When we declared sovereignty we insisted that it should be taken at its word and the centre started to put pressure on us. I then joined a bloc with the big republics, where I play a certain role." Kazakhstan he says with muted pride, now has a leader who has to be reckoned with.

His co-operation with the "big republics" brought him into league with the Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, but also into a game which posed and still poses far more of a threat to the central Soviet leadership and to President Gorbachev than the

Kazakhstan leader wants to admit.

Yesterday he lifted only part of the curtain which obscures the mysterious creation of a so-called "alternative centre", or the "big four", the plan for a political and economic alliance between Kazakhstan, Russia, the Ukraine and Belorussia. The "big four" had been his idea, he said.

● KIEV: In a leaked document, the Ukraine Communist party has attacked its own activists for "smugness and inertia" accusing them of disregarding the threat posed by pro-independence groups in the referendum (Robert Seely writes).

The republic's 52 million population is a key area for the referendum. If they choose to vote "no" to the renewed union, the result could seal the fate of the Soviet Union.

## Triumphant Serbs seek downfall of government

FROM ROGER BOYES AND DEBRA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

THE Serbian opposition yesterday claimed another victory in its anti-communist campaign by forcing the resignation of the interior minister, Radmilo Bogdanovic. But the opposition leader, Vuk Draskovic, told a 10,000-strong crowd of cheering Serbs in the Yugoslav capital that the opposition would now press for the resignation of the whole government, and demanded new elections.

Mr Bogdanovic was in command of the police forces when they charged and fired on student demonstrators in Belgrade on Saturday. The concession — one of the key demands of the protesters — enthused the thousands of young Serbs but left them disoriented.

"Arrest Slobodan!" they chanted, referring to Slobodan Milosevic, the beleaguered Serbian president, who has now given ground, under pressure, on several of the opposition demands. The television management has been sacked — albeit to be replaced by another unpopular director — Mr Draskovic was freed from prison, and a par-

liamentary commission will investigate the shootings.

Mr Milosevic also met parliamentarians, including Dragoljub Micunovic, a deputy from the opposition Democratic party, in an effort to ease the crisis which he created in the first place by sending tanks against unarmed demonstrators.

Yugoslavia appears to have edged back from the immediate threat of martial law. Although the collective parliament of Yugoslavia will resume discussing the subject today, it is obvious that there is a strong majority against authorising the state of emergency demanded by the army.

Dr Stipe Mesic, who represented Croatia at Tuesday night's session, said yesterday: "The future of the country cannot be resolved in this way." The original proposals of the leadership have been rejected and the republics — minus Slovenia which is boycotting the session — will today "concentrate on other ways of resolving the crisis".

The Serbian opposition is maintaining its pressure on the communist leadership but is also refraining from challenging Mr Milosevic by name. The opposition organiser, Bogoljub Pejic, said yesterday: "We do not want to overthrow the regime or the constitutional order."

However, Mr Draskovic made clear yesterday what he thought of "this despotic, tyrannical, one-sided, one-legged, one-eyed regime cannot have any friend left in the world." The opposition, he said, had opened up Serbia to Europe and the world. The immediate object of the opposition — voiced strongly in the demonstration — is for the release of more than 300 jailed protesters.

Mr Pejic said that many were being tortured or kept in solitary confinement. Most had been sentenced to prison and were being forced to work. During the demonstration yesterday, opposition speakers said that 150 of the prisoners were on hunger strike and that the regime was deliberately playing down the number of those injured in Saturday's violence.

The apparent confessions of Mr Milosevic may be a matter of tactics. The use of the federal army in a Serbian confrontation was a blunder. The Serbian communist party is split and there may well be disagreements in the army since they too risk much by the imposition of martial law.



Out of breath: a teenager wearing a mask during a shopping trip in Bratislava, the Slovak capital. Severe air pollution, mainly caused by the local chemical industry, is a constant threat to the health of the local people

## Albanians forsake freedom for profit

FROM ANDREW MCLEWEN IN BRINDISI

HUNDREDS of young Albanian men have deserted the schools and camps which Brindisi opened for them, and returned to the port where they landed last week. Their ill-sorted clothes and plastic bags made them a picture of deprivation, but their faces told another story. If these were disappointed emigrants abandoning a dream, they seemed surprisingly cheerful.

The probable explanation lay in the bags, filled with secondhand clothes donated by local people. Although worthless in Italy, the clothes are valuable in Albania.

Some of the men made no secret of their intention of selling them at high prices on their return. They appear to have got the idea after telephoning friends who returned home on board the freighter Tirana on Sunday.

Few local people have realised that a minority of the Albanians are planning to profit from their generosity. Newspapers describe them as "the repentant ones" and editors have expressed surprise that they should reject their new home so quickly.

The Italian authorities are expected to give clearance for them to leave, in spite of a court order imposing the 18 ships which brought them here. Apart from the Tirana, a

Panamanian ship, My Legend, has been allowed to leave, and the port of Durres has sent a delegation to negotiate the release of the others.

After a week of remarkable tolerance and generosity, the people of Brindisi are becoming wary of their guests. The departure of a further 4,000 Albanians for other parts of Italy yesterday brought relief.

There has been increased tension after the attempted rape of an Albanian woman. In another incident two Albanian husbands have complained that their wives had been abducted. A prostitution racket is suspected of being involved.

● ROME: Albania, which resumes diplomatic relations with the United States this week, may establish ties with the Vatican and Israel. Mohamed Kaplani, the Albanian foreign minister, said yesterday, Albania has rigorously suppressed the Roman Catholic Church since the end of the second world war. In 1967 it declared itself the world's first atheist state.

Tirana has also formally asked for diplomatic relations with the European Community and is seeking urgent humanitarian aid. Mr Kaplani said he also expected an early resumption of relations with Britain. (Reuters)

## Kohl urges new military policy

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

GERMANY must amend its constitution so that its armed forces can join in any future international operations such as the Gulf war, Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, told the Bundestag yesterday. It is, perhaps, no coincidence that he went further than ever before in supporting overseas deployment of the Bundeswehr two days after his successful summit with John Major.

In a long speech on future government policy, the chancellor told members that the end of the division of Germany and the recovery of full national sovereignty had to mean the united country accepted greater responsibility for security in the world.

The chancellor promised last year to seek amendments to the constitution which would allow the armed forces to serve under United Nations command. Yesterday, he showed that the outcome of the Gulf conflict had convinced him this was a minimalist approach.

He said that "as a touchstone for the seriousness of our political will to share the burden of maintaining international peace" Germany had to seriously consider sending troops to back up United Nations resolutions. Moreover, he said, the constitution had to allow troops to partici-

pate in a future European security structure, possibly set up under the Western European Union (WEU), but still firmly within an unchanged Nato.

This European vision of the Bundeswehr's future role matches the views put forward by Mr Major this week, and Herr Kohl can rely on the support of Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his foreign minister, who is particularly keen on new European security structures.

The SPD, as Willy Brandt, the party's former chancellor, made clear yesterday, will support only the "minimalist" idea of joining a "blue helmet" UN peacekeeping force.



Brandt: limited support for changes in army's use

## Economic woes add to Kremlin plebiscite fears

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE industrial unrest in the Soviet Union's coal mines, reported last night to have forced the closure of five Ukrainian steel mills, is compounding an already unprecedented drop in economic output. It is matching or exceeding the gloomiest warnings of forecasters.

A senior Communist party official acknowledged yesterday that economic recession was providing an unfavourable climate for next Sunday's referendum, in which voters will decide the fate of President Gorbachev's plans for a renewed Soviet federation.

Yuri Prokofyev, the Moscow city party boss and a hardline supporter of the president, struck a defensive note which suggested that the leadership may already be anticipating a poor result, despite a propaganda barrage for a "yes" vote.

"The referendum is being held at the worst possible time, with the influence of the leadership falling and economic decline in the background," he told reporters, adding that the ballot was, none the less, necessary to preserve the union and avert a complete economic collapse.

The extent to which output was declining even before this month's miners' strike is revealed by the latest, unpublished estimates of output in key sectors during January and February.

In the Soviet Union as a whole, production of coal was down by 7 per cent, that of oil by 9 per cent, and that of ferrous metals by 6 per cent, according to figures being used by Gosplan, the state planning agency. Published data for the Russian Federation, which provides the lion's share of output in virtually all sectors, confirm these trends and also indicate a 9 per cent fall in car production, a 10 per cent drop in tractor output and 14 per cent in timber production.

Gosplan officials said current trends were in line with forecasts they drew up six months ago of a double-figure drop in national income during 1991. One prediction forecast an 11.6 per cent drop in the GNP. These estimates were later revised considerably, apparently because of pressure from Nikolai Ryzhkov, the outgoing prime minister. Thus by late November, Gosplan's forecasts for 1991 projected a 1 per cent fall in GNP, and in industrial output of only 1.5 per cent.

Unpublished figures are already showing a decline of 4.7 per cent in the nominal value of industrial output over the year to last month. Officials say the real figure may be nearer 7 per cent if proper account is taken of inflation.

Moreover, neither the speed at which oil production has declined, nor the effects of the current coal strike were anticipated.

In the past two weeks, some 350,000 tonnes of coal have been lost as a result of industrial unrest in the Donbas, in the Ukraine, which produces nearly a quarter of the total Soviet production. In the west Siberian Kuzbass region, where the spectacular coal strike of 1989 began, up to a third of miners have taken part in industrial action over the past few weeks as pits take turns to shut.

The extent of concern over the strike in high places was highlighted yesterday as the trade union daily, *Trud*, published an appeal from official trade unions in the metal, engineering, defence and chemical sectors to the miners to go back to work.

## Oil spill to cost Exxon \$1.1bn

Washington — The Exxon Corporation has agreed to pay \$1.1 billion (£600 million) to settle civil and criminal claims arising from an oil spill off Alaska two years ago. The settlement, which includes a fine of \$100 million, is the largest in the United States for environmental damage (Susan Elliott writes).

Under an agreement yesterday, the company will spread its payment over ten years in order to restore the ecologically sensitive area along the coast, coated in crude oil on March 24, 1989, when the Exxon Valdez ran aground on a reef. The ship lost about 11 million gallons in the worst oil spill in American history.

Environmental groups complained that the agreement did not set aside enough money to restore the shoreline.

## Summit date

Moscow — A meeting between President Gorbachev and President Bush, postponed from February, could take place in May, Tass news agency said. The views on the summit of James Baker, the US Secretary of State, would be considered with interest when he arrives in Moscow today, it said. (Reuters)

## Arrest overruled

Dhaka — Shah Moazzem Hossain, a former deputy prime minister of Bangladesh, has been released from jail, saying his immediate task was to free former President Ershad, from police custody. Mr Hossain was arrested in December. The High Court ruled this week that his detention was illegal. (Reuters)

## No contest

Nairobi — Kenya has refused to register an opposition political party launched by Jaramogi Oginga Odinga, a former vice-president, in defiance of the country's one-party constitution. He announced the launch of his National Democratic party a month ago. (Reuters)

## Menem divorce

Buenos Aires — Zulema Yoma, the wife of President Menem, is about to file for divorce, accusing him of virtually every misdeed Argentine laws mention as grounds for divorce, her lawyer said. The president, aged 60, also in trouble on the political front, was not available for comment. (Reuters)



Draskovic attacking a "despotic regime"

## Smoke gets in EC eyes

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE European Community is suffering from a bad case of schizophrenia over cigarettes. With one half of its personality it fights every new cigarette advertising wheeze, while with the other it hands out subsidies to tobacco farmers.

The common agricultural policy occasionally pays farmers to start crops for which there is no demand inside Europe. Shrewd Italian and Greek tobacco farmers have spotted that there are generous funds for so-called "oriental" tobaccos, which are subsidised for sale in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. Even better, if they exceed a quota, the EC buys the tobacco and sells it for them with only the lightest cut in price.

Some growers have been shopping around for the most lucrative tobaccos, and then exceeding their quotas by up to 1,000 per cent. Respectable tobacco growers told the European Commission on Friday that it was wasting £140 million each year because of loopholes in the rules.

Tobacco is one of the most heavily subsidised crops but discussion on it is almost always reached at the end of arduous nocturnal meetings when, it is believed, exhausted arm ministers will sign whatever is put in front of them.

## Capitalism flourishes in socialists' last resort

THE doorman's smile is at odds with his watchful glance, and the manager of Rügen's best hotel adjusts his sharp Western suit a touch self-consciously before smoothly answering questions which would plunge most east Germans into a tizzy of embarrassment.

"Yes, we are the same management as before," he says cheerfully. "Our former guests demanded the best standards. Now we are just applying them for new customers."

The glossy brochure for the Cliff Hotel on the Baltic island of Rügen evades any mention of its former identity — as the East German central committee's holiday home, the retreat of Erich Honecker and his politburo from the arduous business of running the country's economy and morale.

There are still some giveaway

signs, however. The foyer features a luminous mural of ecstatic socialist families and the decor is of the gloomy shades-of-brown variety favoured by the old elite.

Their continuing obsession with health is reflected in a gymnasium more suitable for training the redoubtable East German Olympic team than pandering to the gerontobureaucracy which ran the country.

The islanders are still bursting with tales of how the site was guarded by special troops with machineguns who would take pot shots at innocent holidaymakers who strayed too close to the perimeter fence. They bitterly complain that the "Red Sox" who ran the place before are now profiting from its privatisation.

Uwe Kussmaul, the manager, is disarmingly frank about the new

owners: "Well, you're right, it is us, the people who ran it before, except that now we have founded a limited company."

A conspiratorial smile follows. "Capital rules the world these days, don't you agree?"

The island remains a corner of the old East Germany, having escaped the modernisation brought to more accessible parts of the country by unification. True, the flags celebrating the Free German Youth have been replaced by those advertising car firms, but the menus still feature the dubious east German luxuries of tinned asparagus and elderly vegetables.

The only difference is that you can get fish these days. It was a standard joke about the economy that an island where everyone had a fisherman in the

family managed to run short of fish in the shops for most of the year.

Until recently, Rügen was the favoured retreat of the central committee and its guests from other communist countries. Herr Honecker had his personal hideaway on the neighbouring island of Vilm, which was not shown on maps until the late 1980s, and then only with the legend: "Landing strictly forbidden — Council of Ministers."

Devoid of the nonconformist's visits, however, Rügen is now struggling for survival. Most of the island was employed in the tourism industry, in hotels owned by the communist party, trade unions or the ministry of state security.

All but a handful have closed since the collapse of the com-

munist regime. The Cliff Hotel attracts curious guests anxious to swim in the politburo swimming pool or receive the attentions of Margot Honecker's hairdresser. But the cars are all from western Germany.

"There is no money for tourism in the east at the moment," Herr Kussmaul admits. His only guests from what was the German Democratic Republic have been former central committee members seeking a hideaway where they are unlikely to be recognised by the people who were once their subjects.

"They still like coming," Herr Kussmaul says with some satisfaction. "Except that now they have to foot the bill themselves."

Anne McElvoy



## India braces for turmoil of May general election

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

AFTER a week of political uncertainty, Indian MPs were told yesterday to prepare for an election in late May. The poll will be a test of the country's increasingly unstable democracy.

President Venkatarman's announcement, a day after parliament was dissolved, ended seven bizarre days in Indian politics. Attempts continued until the final hours to piece together a coalition government, in the hope of stalling an election until the country was in better shape.

Rajiv Gandhi, leader of the Congress (I) party, tried to manoeuvre himself into the prime ministership at the head of a new coalition, but could not get enough supporters. There was talk of a merger between his party and the outgoing governing group, the Janata Dal (S), but that came to nothing.

To add to the sense of uneasiness, parliament carried on enacting far-reaching legislation, mostly without any debate, including an interim budget and an extension of emergency rule in Punjab. It was the first time parliament had continued in session after the formal acceptance of a prime minister's resignation. It was a vital manoeuvre: without it, parliamentary authority to continue spending public funds would have expired at the end of this month.

The electoral commission said the poll would be held in the latter half of May. By then most of the country will be hot, making campaigning difficult. The crucial question is whether violence will erupt on a big scale, given the existing tension between Hindus and Muslims after widespread communal bloodshed.

Chandra Shekhar as prime minister, has adopted caste as his political platform, the only mainstream politician to do so. He is attracting support from low castes by promising to reserve government jobs for them. This has created a high-caste backlash. Many upper castes are turning to the Hindu orthodox organisation, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

All eyes are on the BJP, which has the clout to mobilise numerous Hindus. It controls two big states, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, as well as the small Himalayan state of Himachal Pradesh. Many people blame it for the communal confrontation.

These developments are threatening the traditional dominance of the Congress (I) party, which is struggling to keep its alliance of Harijans (untouchables), Muslims and Brahmins. Most analysts believe the election will produce another hung parliament.

Leading article, page 15



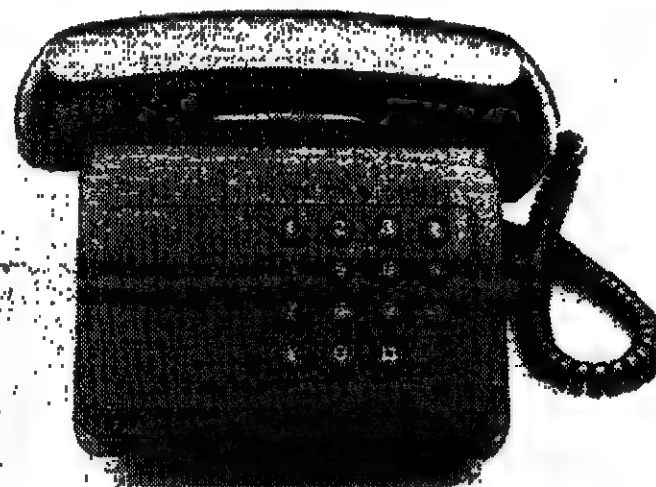
Lakeside vigil: American soldiers, perched on empty coffins, gaze across the waters of Lake Chapala, in El Salvador, as colleagues search for a US army helicopter which crashed into the lake last month, with four military personnel on board. Left-wing rebels of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front ended a three-day truce, called during legislative and local

elections held last Sunday, when they shot down a Salvadoran helicopter gunship, using a ground-to-air missile (Renter reports). The two pilots and a gunner on board were killed in the attack near the village of Concepción Corozal, about 100 miles east of San Salvador. It was the third successful use of such missiles by rebels in the 11-year civil war. Officials said the election

results might not be known for days and promised that allegations of voting fraud would be checked. Ruben Zamora, a leader of the moderate left-wing Democratic Convergence coalition, earlier accused the governing Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena) party and election authorities of brutal and open electoral fraud to cut his party's share of the vote. Unofficial

results give Arena at least 43 per cent of the vote and their leaders say they have won an absolute majority in the 84-seat national assembly. Unofficial projections put the former ruling Christian Democrat party second. Democratic Convergence was running third with at least 12 per cent of the vote, more than three times its 3.8 per cent share of the 1989 ballot.

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## Mandela named in wife's trial

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

NELSON Mandela, deputy leader of the ANC, gave orders from prison for the family lawyer to visit his wife's home and take away two youths allegedly abducted there, it was claimed in court here yesterday.

Barred Thabiso Mono, aged 22, the second state witness called in the Rand Supreme Court trial of Winnie Mandela and three others on kidnapping and assault charges, pointed to Ismail Ayob, the instructing solicitor for the defence team.

Mr Mono gave his evidence in his native Sotho language and answered questions through an interpreter. He said Mr Ayob and Kiriha Naidoo, another leading black lawyer, arrived at Mrs Mandela's home in Soweto early in January, 1989, and said Mr Mandela had told them "to fetch two people from that place". He said that Jerry Richardson, "coach" of Mrs Mandela's bodyguards, the "Mandela United Football

Club", and "Molweni" Feni, aged 36, one of Mrs Mandela's three co-accused, objected.

After a second visit by the lawyers, Mr Mono said, he and Gabriel Pele Mekgwe were taken to Mr Ayob's offices in Johannesburg. Subsequently, they were taken to the home of Dr Nthato Motlana, a leading activist in Soweto, after which they gave an account of alleged kidnapping and assault to a church crisis committee.

Mr Mekgwe, who was also due to testify for the state, disappeared in Soweto shortly before the trial began on February 6. Mr Mono and Kenneth Kgase, aged 31, who left the witness box on Tuesday after four days of cross-examination, originally refused to give evidence, saying that they feared for their lives.

The trial, in which Mrs Mandela and her three co-accused have pleaded not guilty to charges of kidnapping and assault, resumed last week after a fortnight's adjournment.

Mr Mono said yesterday that he was slapped, punched and whipped by Mrs Mandela after he, Mr Mekgwe, Mr Kgase and Stompie Moeketsi Seipei, a 14-year-old activist, were abducted to her home from a Methodist church manse in Soweto in December, 1988. He said: "She hit me with open hands and fists on my face." He referred to Mrs Mandela as "Mamie" and said that Richardson, sentenced to death last August for the murder of "Stompie" Moeketsi had told the four of them not to call her anything except "Mamie".



Mrs Mandela outside the court yesterday

## Biographer baffled by Reagan enigma

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

THE mind of Ronald Reagan remained a mystery to many of his countrymen throughout his presidency. Was he a genius with the wisdom of a Washington, or was he a charming but empty core of an epic image-making feat?

Since little light was shed by Mr Reagan's ghost-written memoirs, published last year, historians have been waiting for the authoritative account of the man from Edmund Morris, the official Reagan biographer. For the last four years of the presidency, Mr Morris, who won the Pulitzer prize for a biography of Franklin Roosevelt, was admitted to the most private moments of Mr Reagan's White House and family life with the object of painting the definitive portrait of the man. But Mr

Morris has found his subject to be "the most mysterious man I have ever confronted".

"It is impossible to understand him," Mr Morris lamented to academics at the University of Virginia. "I went through a period of a year or so of depression because I felt that, with all my research, how come I can't understand the first thing about him? I only came out of this despair when I found out that everybody else who had ever known him, including his wife, is equally bewildered."

The biography is due out next year. Random House, its publishers, hope it will do better than the Reagan memoirs, which were outsold by the ghost-written memoirs of Millicent, the George Bush family dog.



# Lamont must engage neutral

Nicholas Ridley

Norman Lamont brings in his first Budget next Tuesday in a difficult economic climate. Tax revenues must be running well below his expectations, because of the recession, while expenditure must be on an upward course because of the demands on the defence budget of war in the Gulf, and Michael Heseltine's demands for money to throw at the community charge. The government appears to be a pretty soft touch for spending on any good cause that comes along. We already know that the days of government surplus are over, and that the government is in the market for borrowing to cover its deficit. That deficit could get uncomfortably large next year if no changes are made. In these circumstances, a Chancellor would normally be thinking about increasing taxes.

Circumstances, however, are not normal. The recession is turning out to be much more severe than the government expected. Business and industry are caught in a double squeeze: interest rates are still extremely high, even with base rate at 13 per cent, and the overvalued pound is kept up in the European exchange-rate mechanism, making it hard to secure export orders or to replace imports. The seriousness of the recession is being signalled by M0, the most basic measure of the amount of money in circulation, which is growing at an annual rate of 3 per cent. This is almost certainly less than the present rate of inflation, and as low as M0 has been. The economy is in a severely depressed condition, and it is likely to get worse. As this happens the public finances will deteriorate, income tax coming in being replaced by unemployment pay, going out, and company profits becoming company losses. Few would disagree, outside the Treasury at least, that we are now witnessing a serious dose of overkill, partly as a result of the decision to join the ERM at DM2.95, but more importantly because interest rates have been kept high to defend that rate.

The three most recent Chancellors, Nigel Lawson, John Major and Norman Lamont, have all eschewed the fiscal weapon — they dismiss it as "fiscal fine-tuning" — and have relied entirely on interest rates to steer the economy. This was the method used to tackle excess demand from 1988-90, in my view mistakenly. Taxation should have been increased in 1989 and/or in 1990 to reduce demand, and interest rates lowered accordingly.

Because of this interest-rate doctrine, a vital element is missing from economic policy — that is the policy of getting the right balance between fiscal and monetary policy. This has important implications for the distribution of any burdens among taxpayers. Since taxes were not used to curb excess demand, there is no point in now using tax cuts to stimulate it. Since interest rates were used to curb demand, there is every reason now to reduce them.

This would be doubly beneficial. It would take the pressure off industrial borrowing and

investment, and it should help bring the pound down to a more realistic exchange rate. The pound needs to fall by at least 10 per cent against the Deutschmark to price industry back into markets. America has sensibly pursued such a policy, cutting interest rates, and the falling dollar, in spite of a recent upturn, is the mirror image of the rising pound. We can expect more American imports and fewer British exports to America unless we use base rates to price us back into the market.

So the right Budget for Britain contains at least a two-point cut in interest rates. Mr Lamont should ignore the hand-wringing of dedicated Europeans who are ERM lovers. We made a mistake in joining, and it is wiser to admit that, and let the pound float where it will, thereby bringing popularity to the government. After all, we would only be following the advice of the guru of the exchange-rate mechanism, Karl Otto Pöhl, who said recently: "Interest rates should be set according to domestic monetary conditions, while exchange rates should be allowed to go where they will."

The Chancellor should also put aside the absurd new doctrine which says that he should follow inflation down with interest-rate cuts. The retail price index is a useless measure of inflation in two ways: it includes things that are

not of the disease, such as poll taxes and mortgage interest. But, more important, it compares prices with those of 12 months ago. What matters is what inflation is doing now; and it is certainly now far lower than the RPI indicates. Inflation may even have already been beaten. All this is not to advocate policies of demand management against a firm belief in monetary policy. The money supply has become inadequate because of the prolonged base-rate squeeze, a state identical to the one Keynes identified in the late 1920s. With M0 growing at a rate lower than the rate of inflation, monetary policy is signalling the need for relaxation, not just demand management.

The Budget should therefore be neutral in terms of demand: all the relaxation that is needed (and a lot is) should be done through base-rate reductions. Doing nothing much on taxes and spending will be an added stimulus, as we shall be moving into quite heavy government deficit. On Mr Lawson's analysis, that is not inflationary; it merely transfers spending power from the holders of pit-edged to the government. It is not inflationary provided the deficit is genuinely financed.

A neutral Budget is, of course, not one without tax increases. It should be neutral in real terms. We have had about 10 per cent inflation over the past year, and excess duties could safely be raised to catch that up. I hope Mr Lamont will also use the prospect of declining interest rates to deal with mortgage interest relief. The only fair policy is to phase out the relief for new mortgages: he cannot take retrospective action. A decent cut in interest rates would be more valuable to first-time buyers than the tax relief.



Lamont: base rates must fall

Michael Evans, in Kuwait, argues that tactical brilliance, not just force of arms, won the Gulf war

# Yes, it really was a famous victory

Two weeks have passed since the liberation of Kuwait and already questions are being asked: was it a classic battle or just an easy rout? Did the Americans, British, French and others really have to send so many troops and so much equipment to deal with a Third World army? If there is a next time, could we get away with deploying half as many? These questions are going to be asked endlessly. The British Army's director of doctrine has just arrived at the headquarters of the 1st Armoured Division near Kuwait City. Members of the Commons defence select committee are due there soon.

The troops are packing up and going home, most not having fired one shot in anger. Many British infantrymen spent the 100-hour ground war in the back of Warrior armoured fighting vehicles, dressed in nuclear, biological and chemical suits. The enemy they had come to fight with fixed bayonets seemed interested only in waving white flags. After the euphoria of victory has died down it may become tempting for people to dismiss the liberation of Kuwait as an affair so one-sided that it does not merit an honourable place with the great battles of the past. That would be unfair.

For although the enemy proved wanting, the tactics for defeating the Iraqis followed classic principles laid down in the 1930s by two great armoured warfare strategists, Sir Basil Liddell Hart and Major-General John "Boney" Fuller. Their vision of an expanding torrent of force through a point of entry in enemy battle-lines was similar to the plan devised by General Norman Schwarzkopf.

Fuller envisaged fleets of tanks advancing like battleships against the enemy. Liddell Hart devised the principle of manoeuvre warfare. Against the Iraqis, the Schwarzkopf concept was based on "cascading battle groups", pursuing one objective after another. The impact of that strategy after the first night of the ground offensive will never be forgotten by those who took part. When dawn came, Iraqi tanks were burning everywhere, troops giving up in their thousands.

But the allied torrent of force continued expanding, driving deep into enemy positions. The 1st Armoured Division's mission was to destroy the tactical reserves in central Kuwait to prevent them from counter-attacking against the US 7th Corps, which was sweeping round behind the Republican Guard in southern Iraq. Liddell Hart and Fuller worked on the theory of exploiting the gaps in enemy defences, not attacking "surface" positions, such as the Iraqi front-line troops.

The intention of this strategy was to get into the decision cycle of the enemy, so that they were always outwitted. The western flanking manoeuvre was a classic demonstration. Not only were the Iraqis duped, they were unable to respond even when they realised that allied armour was massing well to the west of Kuwait and driving through southern Iraq. The British captured electronic intelligence equipment that showed the Iraqis had traced the thrust across central Kuwait. But their ground forces were too committed to their positions, too inflexible to react. In the event, the Iraqi units that were attacked from the front tended to fight back, while those attacked from the rear gave up immediately. Had the allies done what the Iraqis wanted, and advanced towards their defensive positions from the south, it would indeed have been a war with many casualties.

Yet victory was not due to strategy alone. For the British forces, there were two other essential elements, known to commanders in the British Army of the Rhine as *Auftragstaktik*, mission-orientated orders, and *Beweglichkeit*, battle drill. The British forces in Germany

had only recently changed from training with detailed written orders, in which every move was plotted, to mission-orientated orders, in which commanders are given only objectives. The battle drills, or standard operating instructions (SOIs), for the liberation of Kuwait were carefully worked out, with simple graphics, to ensure that everyone knew exactly how they would go to war. For example, within the 4th Armoured Brigade the 3rd Battalion the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers always advanced on the left, with the Royal Scots on the right. That meant radio orders could be kept to a minimum once the advance had begun.

Such precision won the war both from the air and on the ground. The Iraqis were unable to compete. But that does not devalue the allied achievement. It has been said that few plans survive "H hour". This one did in every detail, on both the operational and tactical level.

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# Print and be dazzled

Any topic, however esoteric, can be made gripping by inspired exposition, says Bernard Levin

The new editor of *The Times Literary Supplement*, Ferdinand Mount (Ferdie to all) has been quick to change the layout; its new dress is both handsome and inviting. Ferdie knows, of course, that it is the merchandise, not the wrapping-paper, which sells the goods; it is going to be great fun watching as he carefully, not too quickly, also changes the contents.

I believe that what I call the inertia of newspaper reading is at its most powerful in Britain. To persuade a reader of one newspaper or magazine to change allegiance to another demands an enormous amount of time, money and ingenuity; up and down the land, every breakfast time, people leap to their feet, fling their newspapers to the floor, stamp on it vigorously, and cry "I won't have that rag in the house another day."

But next day it is still there. The corollary, of course, is that when the devotion is felt to be betrayed, the screams of wounded tradition can be heard above the thudding of the disappointed readers jumping on their papers. When, in May 1966, *The Times* ceased to devote the entire front page to small ads and put news on it, the national suicide rate rose by an average of 16 per cent for the first three months, but this dismal figure (none the less dismal for being made up by me just now) was followed by the result of an opinion poll that asked *Times* readers whether they had come to terms with the new appearance, whereupon 67 per cent of them (providence of figure the same) declared they had not noticed it.

Ferdie, then, has a considerable task before him. It can be done; Max Hastings, when he was made editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, managed, with infinite tact, to bring it at least into the 20th century, though it is true that he had one unique advantage, which was that roughly a third of his regular readers were dead, and indeed buried, or at least embalmed, thus being in no position to complain.

On the eve of the appearance of the new style *TLS*, there was a feature in *The Guardian* about literary magazines, and naturally Ferdie's views and intentions were canvassed. So, however, were those of Ferdie's chief assistant, Alan Jenkins, and it was something he said that gives me my text for today. Discussing the *TLS*, Mr Jenkins put it this way:

We have an image problem... There's no doubt that it's perceived to be a rather stuffy and forbidding publication, and there's no question that in some areas it's necessarily forbidding. For example, a book on Byzantine coinage — you can't make it that interesting to someone who isn't interested in Byzantine coinage; those areas are going to seem of necessity quite unattractive.

That is where I part company with Mr Jenkins's views. He instanced a book on Byzantine coinage, clearly intending his example to provide the most powerful barrier to a wider readership. But from long and searching experience, I believe that no such barrier exists, in the case of Byzantine coinage or in any other topic. To start at a tangent, I can offer one genuinely enthralling and entirely accessible aspect of Byzantine coinage, which is that the word "Byzantine" holds the English language record for the number of ways a word can be acceptably pronounced; I believe "Byzantine" can be spoken in nine ways, every one justifiable. Imagine, turning to your neighbour at table and asking: "What do you do?" to receive the apparently daunting reply: "I am a Professor of Byzantine Coinage, but I don't expect you to be interested in the subject." Off you go at once with the pronunciation game, and while the potatoes are coming round you are getting on like a house on fire, particularly if you know something recondite about potatoes.

Now I am going to be serious. I most profoundly believe, and I



Alan Jenkins

have been testing my belief all my life, that there is no subject which cannot be made interesting, given — this is the great barrier, not the subject itself — that the expert on it knows how to make it meaningful and even exciting to the layman.

Obviously, I demand a great deal; there is many an expert who can do no more by exposition than go on repeating his incomprehensible jargon. I have in my mind read more reviews of that kind in the *TLS* than any man should have to do without being paid for his suffering. Ferdie's ultimate aim should be to exclude anything that only fellow-experts can understand.

Nuclear power, fossils, molecular biology, quarks, higher mathematics (my brother-in-law is a higher mathematician), bee-keeping, death, Swedenborg, the internal combustion engine, the *Rt Hon Edward Heath*, the *Lusitania*, the theory of chance, the inside of the head of Gary Kasparov, evolution, earthquakes and Mozart: all these things and a great many more have I heard expounded and explained by a man or woman wise and eloquent enough to make me understand their essence, and I am the better and rounder man for it.

Remember that the expert is

always keen to explain his subject to the laity, and the reason is obvious: he is tired of explaining it to his fellow experts, who want only to put forward their own version of the subject. That Professor of Byzantine Coinage who said "I don't expect you to be interested in the subject" was dying to hear you say "Oh, yes, I would love to hear all about it." That in itself is no guarantee that he can make you understand, but even if he cannot, you are not altogether helpless; ingenious questions can elicit fascinating answers.

I once revealed to my readers that in my library (which I believe is the most eclectic on earth, if not in the entire history of printing), I have, somewhere on my shelves, a book called *A History of False Teeth*. There is no joke or trick; it is exactly what its title said it was, and I read it, enthralled, from beginning to end. Some of my readers responded by asking "What is the use of knowing the history of false teeth?" If the question is to be answered literally, I have to say that there is no use in it; after all, if I did sit next to the author at dinner, he could not tell me anything I didn't already know. For that reason, I don't think camels can't walk backwards, and I recently added to my store of useless zoological information the fact that snakes are deaf; neither of these facts being of any actual or potential use.

But that brings me round the circle to where I started; between you and me, I don't care a bit about Byzantine coinage, and the expert offering to explain it to me would only be explaining himself and his ability at exposition, so that I would leave thinking "What an interesting man" rather than "What an interesting subject".

And why not, Ferdie? Why not "What a lucid review", instead of "What an important subject"? Come: did not Montaigne himself say "Quand je me joute à ma chatte, qui sait si elle passe son temps de moi plus que je ne fais d'elle"? No doubt some of my readers cannot read French; well, what pleasure they are going to have when they are seated next to a professor of that language who can expound its nature in a way they can understand.

...and moreover

# CLEMENT FREUD

For some time now I have walked with nothing to tell me how far I have gone, how long my journey has taken, nor at what speed I covered the ground. As one foot was plonked firmly in front of the other, then the other in front of the one, the view did not change: there was the bed, the bookshelf, the mother-in-law's tongue, which flourishes by the western light of the window, and a picture by Pappas that I bought for £450 in Belfast 30 years ago — when I could have bought a Bacon or a Piper. The Pappas has shown a steady appreciation of 4 per cent per annum. Baccas have risen by 2,000 per cent. That is why the Pappas is in the spare room.

Before it went wrong I used to walk for great swathes of time with my eyes closed. I knew what I was doing. Kipling's *Boots*, that is to say such of Kipling's *Boots* as I remembered, advanced me 240 metres: "We're foot-slog-slog-slog-slog" over Africa — foot-foot-foot-foot-slog-slog over Africa — boots-boots-boots-boots-movin' up an' down again! There's no discharge in the war! Thirty metres a verse, ten paces between verses; then open my eyes and check the figures on the liquid display panel attached to the frame of my treadmill in the inexorable daily journey towards 3,500, which is the distance by which time the very hot bath run half an hour earlier is at an acceptable temperature.

For months now there has been an uncompromising row of eight when I pressed Distance. Speed has lost each of the five

uneven digits so that I walk in unrelieved 2s, 4s, 6s and 8s either side of the decimal point. Time is blank: "Try, try, try, try to think of something different. On my God, keep me from going lunatic. Boots, boots, then I have a watch but it is not the same; I want documentary evidence of my exertions."

(A friend gave me the walking machine after the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics when he saw the light and found health. He had been an A personality: dominant, assertive, impatient, difficult. Exercise and contemplation had transformed him into an altogether more relaxed, amenable B person who could endure traffic jams. His gift, intended to downgrade my persona alphabetically, was made as a religious convert might give a missal. He said it would benefit my cardiovascularity. As the machine is six feet long by two-and-a-half feet wide and stands four feet tall it seemed just the thing to put into the spare room and discourage house guests. Then I got booked.)

On Tuesday after the first race at Cheltenham, which had been a good thing for Granville again — "Bet of the meeting," wrote Brough Scott on Sunday, nap, stated Mandarin on page 41 of *The Times*, "Top class novice sure to win more races," added *Timeform* — I was watching the connections of Desfriere talk of their seven-figure win (their horse turned out to have been a better thing) when the buzzer for the downstairs door buzzed. Hallo, said I, Engineer, said the

voice below. Come up, I said, right to the top. Sorry about no lift.

In God's good time the engineer reached the summit, asked where it was. I showed him. What's wrong? he asked. I told him. He said it sounded like the membrane, what did I think? I thought that if I knew what a membrane on a state-of-the-art Japanese treadmill was, I might become an engineer. He said he would go down and get his tools; I gave him a key so that he could stop buzzing the encephalogram. In the second race at Cheltenham I was confident about Uncle Ernie. Sporting Life, *The Sun*, *The Star* and *Today* typed him: "Has a turn of foot, jumps well, will continue to give a very good account of himself," wrote *Timeform*. Remittance Man won. The engineer came back, asked if I might let him have some pound coins for the parking meter. I gave him three; he left.

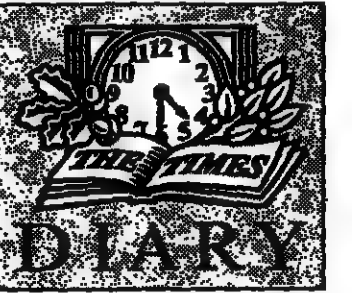
I got ready for the Champion Hurdle. He came back. Beech Road, who won two years ago, was an outstanding each-way bet at 8-1. I bet him each way. *Timeform* said he jumps hurdles quickly and well, has a fine turn of foot. The engineer went down and came up again, showing a turn of foot which struck me as less than fine, said he did not know why I needed the walking machine when I had all those stairs. Morley Street won the Champion Hurdle. Beech Road came ninth. I told the engineer that I might be pushed to pay his repair bill.

# The spoilers of war

The British Army returning from Kuwait may not be allowed to keep its spoils of war. The 4th Armoured Brigade had planned to bring home more than 100 items of equipment abandoned by the Iraqis, including tanks, missile launchers and guns, much of it expected to end up as regimental war trophies. Other brigades were proposing to use Iraqi military hardware for firing practice. But both plans have been scuppered by the realisation that tanks, artillery and armoured personnel carriers transported to Britain or Germany will fall foul of the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty, which the Western allies hope will shortly be ratified with President Gorbachev. Much of the Iraqi's ineffectual equipment was manufactured and supplied by the Russians — a fact that does not affect how the hardware will be counted under the treaty.

Denis Healey, former foreign secretary, says: "It's a serious question. If it was placed in Europe it would definitely be counted under CFE. It will probably have to be left in the desert, just as we left pillboxes dotted along the southern coast after the last war." General Sir John Hackett is equally in no doubt that the army should leave it behind. "It should be left there to rot in peace," he says.

When Hackett returned in the 1950s to the Western Desert, where he had served with the Desert Rats in the second world war, it was littered with rusting tanks. "They are probably still there. I suspect the bulk of Iraq's equipment will have to stay where it is for generations to come."



ently has one contingency plan for getting round the CFE restrictions. The army would love to ship its spoils to a Nato firing range in Canada, outside the CFE area, and give allied forces the chance to finish off the job they started in operation Desert Storm.

Ken Baker, while party chairman, found himself in a constant state of civil war with Tory party workers in Scotland. He has not missed them since his move to the Home Office, but had an unexpected reunion in Downing Street recently. As the home secretary arrived for a meeting, John Major was winding up a session with leading Scottish Tory officials. "I see you have all managed to find painful employment," Baker remarked sardonically. "Funny you should say that, Ken," said Major. "They were saying exactly the same thing about you."

# Silver handshake

Christie's has unwittingly provided a bargain for one of the experts it dismissed last year to cut costs. To the embarrassment of his former employers, Charles Truman, head of silver until December, last week spotted a silver dish catalogued as from "Turin, probably mid-17th century, maker's mark possibly a bird". The price was estimated at £1,500 to £2,000. Truman paid

£12,200 in the expectation of making much more.

"I bought it for stock — laughing stock," he says triumphantly. "The mark was the lion of St Mark's — meaning it was made in Venice and dates from 1490. The combination of Gothic and Renaissance ornament is typically Venetian." A comparable piece fetched around £35,000 at Sotheby's in Geneva in 1988.

Charles Allsopp, Christie's chairman, laughs the matter off. "Charles Truman would be less than well advised to make anything of last week's sleeper," he says. "He let through an absolute whopper last year, which fortunately hasn't been disclosed."

# All fired up

Britain's answer to Red Adair is to publish the first DIY manual on putting out oil-well fires. Ken Fraser, Britain's only oil-well firefighter — indeed, the only specialist outside America — confidently expects to be summoned to Kuwait. "We've been in discussions, and anyone who can spell 'well control' is going to be pulled in eventually," he says. Fraser is meanwhile preparing for the publication early next month of his do-it-yourself manual. He spent 13 years with Shell before setting up his own trouble-

shooting company in Aberdeen and wrote the book, he says, to prove that squads of Texans, led by men with colourful names, are not essential to deal with fire. You can take my book and go to Kuwait and do the job yourself," he says. "It's just O-level physics."

# What's in a word?

Church leaders are not the only ones agonising over the justness of the Gulf war. Liberal Democrats are equally divided over the line Paddy Ashdown should take in his keynote speech to the party's annual spring conference, this weekend. While John Major and Neil Kinnock have had no hesitation in describing the war as "just", Ashdown is less sure. "It's not for me to judge whether it is just or not. That is for the theologians and bishops. But I take the view it will be a justifiable war," Ashdown said in the Commons immediately before war broke out. Senior party figures have since been urging their leader to use the word "just", but Ashdown is convinced that the distinction is important.

St Thomas Aquinas set out the conditions for a just war in *Summa Theologiae*. "Those whom we attack must have done some wrong which deserves attack and those waging war must intend to promote good and avoid evil," he wrote. Ashdown's office was unable to spell out where the Liberal Democrat leader's view differs from such an authoritative source, but linguistic experts say justifiable is a more recent addition to the English language. "It's a weaker word and is used by lawyers and politicians as opposed to theologians," says one expert. Ashdown might yet change his mind, but the odds are that he is determined to stick to the politician's word and leave theology to the theologians, not to mention Messrs Kinnock and Major.







## INTO THE AGONY

The Conservative party's retreat from the poll tax is like Napoleon's retreat from Moscow, predictable, painful but inevitable in its destination. If the options so far presented to the cabinet committee and the party's behaviour in the House of Commons yesterday are any indication, the retreat is becoming a disorderly rout.

There have been alarming signs of agony already. The first was Michael Heseltine's suggestion that a new property tax be based on space or number of rooms rather than value. This was at least objective, but required yet another register. New registers are the last thing any reformer wishes to contemplate. Worse, it rejected any progressive element in the tax, except in so far as larger properties sometimes contain richer people. Poll tax may have been abolished as unfair. But to levy the same charge on a Mayfair apartment and a Stepney council flat is hardly more fair. Taxes on fixed assets should reflect value.

The second sign of trouble was over whether or not to retain some element of the old poll tax as an extra, national charge on top of a property tax. This was a sop to hardline supporters of the poll tax, but with neither local accountability nor any relationship to service quality. It would be purely political and would need an extra register.

More worrying is the proposal that the tax should be based on the capital value of a property, not its old rateable value. True, property values are easily assessable, albeit with yet another register. The more valuable the property, the more tax it should incur, as with income and capital taxes. Such a tax would encourage greater efficiency in the use of property, though it would undoubtedly penalise older people living in valuable houses long after their income has declined.

Yet capital value rating is subject to one overwhelming objection, discussed in a *Times* survey last Saturday. It produces a much wider spread of valuation than does the old rateable value, and thus a wider

spread of taxation. Council flats might be valued at near zero. Costly properties would bear an extremely high tax burden. If the poor are to pay anything, and a principle of local taxation is that everybody should, the rich would be truly stung.

In his desperation to avoid this consequence, Mr Heseltine has sought to relieve the burden on single people in large, valuable properties. He proposes a complex system which would assume a house has three occupiers and would allow those with two or one occupier to claim a deduction. This would be more fair, but since many properties have fewer than three adult residents, those that do, mostly families, would have to bear a much higher burden than under ordinary capital valuation. It thus becomes even more savage for the losers. If Mr Major really wants to help the losers in his reform, he would have to give more central grant to local government. That would be expensive.

There is no reason to go down this route at all, except the horror some Tory politicians have of admitting they were wrong to abolish the rates. Every taxpayer in the country is at risk from this pride. A good property tax should fall on everybody in mild proportion to the value and amenity of their house and the quality of its environment, defined as rateable value. Although the rates certainly merited reform, they offered precisely this benefit. Labour, as Bryan Gould indicated yesterday, has now realised this, thus offering the Conservatives an electorally inexpensive way out of their predicament.

The government is working itself into trouble not just of its own making but of its own perpetuating. Its white orchestration of yesterday's poll tax debate as a shouting match suggested real panic. The Conservatives have made a mess of local finance in Britain over the past decade. The least they can do is to set it, calmly and sensibly, back to rights.

## INDIA'S POLITICAL VICE

President Venkataraman yesterday dissolved the Lok Sabha, India's directly elected lower house of parliament, and embarked the country on an election campaign that nobody wants. No party is likely to gain an overall majority, forcing India to settle for a long and no doubt rancorous period of coalition government. That is not the worst of it. Hindu chauvinism is likely to be the principal beneficiary, further impeding the system of democracy vital to India's communal harmony. Enormous care will have to be taken to see that the fanning of political passion at the hustings does not lead to intercommunal violence.

Rajiv Gandhi, leader of Congress, the largest party, expects to improve his position in the crucial northern states of the Gangetic plain, but could lose the remarkable strength he showed in the South at the last outing in November 1989. V. P. Singh, whose Janata Dal (a coalition of competing forces) was the principal component of the National Front government, is now drawing vast crowds of "backward classes" to his political meetings, enthused by his plans to reserve jobs and education for them. The riots and self-immolations which followed his enforcement of those plans enabled the devious Chandra Shekar to split his party and supplant him as prime minister. But Mr Chandra Shekar's party, with only 54 seats, has failed to establish itself as anything but a band of turncoats and opportunists, creatures of Mr Gandhi's Congress.

These quarrels, remote from the lives of most Indians, made fresh elections unavoidable. The party most likely to benefit is the Hindu chauvinist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led by L. K. Advani. Here lies the greatest danger for the country's secular democracy. The BJP abandoned V. P. Singh's government over the religious dispute surrounding a mosque built by the Mogul emperor Babur on the ruins of a

temple at the birthplace of Ram, the sixth incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu.

Professor Advani will campaign on a platform of "Hindu consciousness", appealing to the 80 per cent of the population which follows the Hindu religion. His party stands to gain from agitation over the perceived special treatment given to Muslims, Sikhs and other minorities. It may also result in renewed communal warfare on a scale not seen since partition.

India suffers from the lack of figures with the stature possessed by early Congress leaders to transcend all boundaries within the country, geographical, ideological and communal. To make matters worse, 40 years after independence the world's largest democracy has yet to develop a working two-party system. Votes have tended to be cast either for Congress or against Congress. In this election the votes seem likely to be cast on religious or caste lines.

During the Gulf war, Mr Gandhi wooed the Muslim vote by using Congress's muscle in Parliament to compel Mr Chandra Shekar's government to act against American interests. He has moved to hold the middle ground in the caste war by concentrating on economic issues, drawing attention to the near-bankruptcy of the country. The official inflation rate is 12.2 per cent; the value of the rupee is falling steadily against world currencies; an emergency IMF loan has narrowly saved the country from defaulting on its debt repayments; fuel rationing is close.

Yet another general election, forced on India by squabbling politicians, holds out little prospect of restoring the stability, economic responsibility and good liberal government India's voters have never needed more desperately. India today is not the India that Mahatma Gandhi died for, nor that Pandit Nehru bestrided. Nor will it be after the vote.

## CHANGING BANKS

Bankers, according to Lord Keynes, are the most romantic of men; but their feelings in this regard have rarely been reciprocated by their customers. Whether in Shylock's Venice, or in 19th-century America, or in most of the Third World today, the masses have resented the bankers' pound of flesh. Even fewer people have met a poor banker than have met a poor bookmaker. Popular jealousy is compounded by the ostentatious display of wealth which is essential to the banker's trade. Those who would borrow short and lend long must look as if they could never, ever run out of money to repay their depositors.

So bankers, like garages and estate agents, are readily seen as bloodsuckers. Now a Somerset publican has capped all banking horror stories with the tale of how he was charged £25 to be refused an overdraft. The "listening bank", the Midland, listened, said no, and then had the nerve to charge. They cut the charge by two thirds because the publican had briefed the newly-arrived bank manager about the local area.

As the Consumers' Association pointed out in a report in *Which?* in June 1989, banks give wide discretion to local managers as to when and what to charge. The association asked seven typical managers to say how they made up their minds. A common phrase they used was "bad manners". Thus to go into the red without an "arrangement" was a discourtesy, to be punished by a charge. They deduct for "on-trition, presumably. Unfortunately for customers the survey did not give the name

and address of the manager who broke ranks, saying "customers are prime assets who need to be treated fairly, responsibly, and as adults".

Such sentiments are all very well, but do not belong in the modern world. "Bad manners" is a phrase out of the old Britain, where words were bonds, *noblesse oblige*, and year by year, the rest of the world left the British trailing in its wake. There was no good reason why customers should pay for the advice of their lawyers and their accountants but not of their bankers. But like airlines, banks were competing not on price but on service; a friendly chat with the bank manager fulfilled the same function as a spoonful of caviar in first class.

Now they compete on price with building societies, with retail deposit takers, with the credit card firms. They can no longer attract substantial free deposits. They have to earn their crust elsewhere. Flat-rate bank charges are part of the answer. They may be grossly unfair to those customers who want nothing more than the odd bob from the cash dispenser. But one of the essences of a free market economy is to charge at the margin. In this regard, banking services are no different from any other service. Of course, people should be told what they are going to be charged. Another essence of the free market is full information, and the enforced ending of such cartel-like practices as the coordination of bank closing hours. Beyond that, all customers who do not like the service they are getting have a simple choice, to take their custom elsewhere.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Rating system to community charge and back again?

From Mr Neil Johnson

Sir, The list of community charge levels planned or set which you published on March 9 prompts a number of reflections.

1. The ordinary citizen can now see what level of taxation has been set by his local authority and can compare it with the tax levels set elsewhere. Such transparency was never possible with rates.

2. The community charge thus establishes a degree of public accountability of local authorities for their spending policies and tax demands never known before. What grounds of democratic principle can there be for reversing this remarkable gain?

3. According to my count, only 29 of the local authorities listed propose to levy a community charge in excess of £450. Of these 24 are Labour-controlled, two have no overall majority, two are Conservative and one is SLD. Strikingly, very many authorities have set tax levels well below £400, and many of these are Labour-controlled.

Similarly every Welsh district listed has a community charge below £300, and more than half of them are Labour-controlled. It all goes to show that a sensible Labour council can be just as efficient as a sensible Conservative council.

4. The levels of community charge listed suggest that any return to a re-valuation rating system on whatever valuation basis will bring nasty shocks to many councils and most voters. Rationally can so many people have fallen for so many foolish visions of painless ways of raising local revenue as in recent months?

Finally, a word about your table, headed "Impact of capital value based domestic rates, 1990-1", which seems to assume that the amount levied per £ of capital value will be roughly equal in all authorities. Surely this is unrealistic. In authorities with predominantly low capital values the rate per pound will have to be higher to meet a given level of expenditure than in an area with high property values. Under a rating system of whatever kind it is impossible to predict what any particular taxpayer will have to pay — it all depends.

Of one thing, however, we can be certain. A return to rating in whatever guise will mean a return to complex and opaque qualification schemes and an end to that breath of public accountability and comparison brought into local government by the community charge.

Politicians of all parties should think carefully before they rush into hastily prepared schemes intended to relieve their fears or ease their way into public office. Above all they would be well-advised to turn a deaf ear to your campaign against the community charge.

Yours faithfully,  
NEVILLE JOHNSON,  
Nuffield College, Oxford.  
March 11.

From Mr Henry Bear

Sir, Your post-Ribble Valley table, in which you compare current community charges with those planned for 1991-2, makes no mention of the safety net. The charge for Rother, for instance, is shown as rising from £352 to £372 — a modest increase, one might think. In fact the £352 included £55 paid to the safety net, a one-off contribution for 1990-1.

### Air routes dispute

From the Chairman of the Virgin Group of Companies

Sir, Monopolies always squeal when governments clip their wings. By the amount of squealing BA has been doing the last few days (reports, March 11, 12) one would have thought they had had their wings cut off. In reality all that has happened is the trimming of a couple of extra feathers they had planned to sprout this year.

They still have over 90 per cent of the international traffic carried by British scheduled airlines, and they are still over 20 times bigger than any other British airline.

They claim that the government has taken away two of their Tokyo frequencies and given them to Virgin Atlantic. In fact the Japanese government had agreed to four extra weekly frequencies for the UK, which the UK authorities decided

Pending the receipt of a detailed bill from our council, it would appear, therefore, that our averaged county and district spending has increased from £297 to £312 — an extra 24.5 per cent. This safety-net adjustment will obviously apply to the annual comparison for all "paying" councils.

Yours faithfully,  
HENRY BEAR,  
Clare Cottage, The Village Green,  
Breda, East Sussex.  
March 11.

From Mr John A. Spence

Sir, Your leading article (March 4) says that the "poll tax has reduced the proportion of local revenue subject to local decision from almost 60 per cent to under 20 per cent in ten years of Conservative rule".

I do not recognise those figures. Domestic and business rates taken together represented about 45 per cent of local revenues in 1981-2. In 1991-2 the community charge is likely to provide about 33 per cent of such revenues.

That is indeed a reduction (although not as dramatic as your figures might suggest), but it hides another and opposite trend which has been happening over those years, the continuing reduction in the Treasury's (i.e. national taxpayers') contributions to local finances. Government grants represented about 55 per cent of local revenues in 1981-2, and this proportion will fall to about 33 per cent in 1991-2.

What the new system of local government finance introduced this year (1990-1) has done is to appear to make a reduction in "the proportion of local revenue subject to local decision" (your words) by nationalising business rates. But should we not continue to look upon these rates as local revenue?

Certainly central government expects local government to be accountable to local business through the non-domestic ratepayers' consultation regulations, and business rates are still collected locally. That the proceeds should be used to finance local government spending has never been in question.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN A. SPENCE  
(Chairman, Finance Committee,  
Association of County Councils),  
Kent County Council,  
County Hall, Maidstone, Kent.  
March 11.

From Lord Armstrong of Ithurbuster  
Sir, It is my belief that, if we are to have any hope of establishing a coherent, durable and effective system of local government, there should be a comprehensive review of every aspect of local government — functions, structure, organisation, standards of conduct, accountability and finance — and of its relationship with central government.

I suggested in my speech in the House of Lords on February 28 that this fundamental review should be undertaken by a Royal Commission. I acknowledged that such a review would take longer than the government's review of structure and finance (itself different from the immediate study of what to do about the community charge) and I did not, as your report indicated, demand or propose a review of the community charge as such, since I recognised that the future of the

should be equally divided between BA and Virgin.

But when it came to landing and take-off slots at Heathrow airport British Airways sought to capture all the extras. Conditioned by years of monopoly, it tried to claim grandfather rights over all the slots available to the UK. It was prepared to adjust its schedules to release them only if it could monopolise all the extra frequencies for its own benefit. That is what the CAA overruled, rightly.

BA now claims that because of this outrageous Tokyo decision it may stop flying other routes. There is nothing new in this: in the past couple of years numerous routes have been dropped, ranging from Carlsbad through the Bahamas to all the Irish routes.

Respectfully,  
RICHARD BRANSON, Chairman,  
Virgin Group of Companies,  
120 Clarendon Hill Road, W8.  
March 12.

### Role of prison

From Mr Anthony Cheshire

Sir, Clifford Longley's article, "Rehabilitation not control" (February 26), represents an idea which is, contrary to his claim, far from revolutionary. Rehabilitation was the primary aim of the prison system in the 1960s, as encapsulated in Rule 1 of the Prison Rules.

As early as 1969, however, it had been shown to be ineffectual: studies showed a consensus that it did nothing to improve reconviction or general crime rates, and in the White Paper of that year, *Prison in the 1970s*, the primary aim had switched to being "the protection of society".

As the recent White Paper states, "Nobody now regards imprisonment itself as an effective means of reform for most prisoners". People are sent to prison as a punishment, not for punishment: it is control, but in a humane way, which must govern the way in which we hold our prisoners.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY CHESHIRE,  
St Anne's College, Oxford.  
March 1.

### Cable TV monopoly

From the General Secretary of the National Communications Union

Sir, Your editorial ("Freeing the phones", March 6) concentrates on the introduction of new competition in the telecommunications services sector. What it does not do is describe the ten-year de facto monopoly which has been granted to cable TV companies in the joint provision of telephony and television.

For at least ten years, and with no commitment to change even then, the government has chosen to prevent consumers from benefiting from the obvious efficiency of combining television with the national communications network which BT provides.

Meanwhile, the cable TV companies, who are overwhelmingly owned by North American telephone and television interests, can luxuriate in a ten-year monopoly while they see if they can put together the effective cable TV industry they have so far failed to provide.

community charge would have to be decided ahead of any such review.

Yours sincerely,  
ROBERT ARMSTRONG,  
House of Lords.  
March 13.

From Mr Michael Ivens

Sir, While the government is looking for alternatives to the poll tax, it might consider the example of Northern Ireland, which doesn't have it. In England, for example, giving local authorities power over education — and the money to implement that power — has proved an educational as well as a financial disaster.

In Northern Ireland, the central department of education provides grants to the five regional education and library boards. They are responsible for passing the money on to the schools.

The results, for Northern Ireland, include no poll tax, the preservation of the grammar schools and educational results that put the rest of Britain to shame. And no politicisation of education.

The education and library boards, incidentally, include Protestants and Roman Catholics.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL IVENS,  
40 Doughty Street, WC1.  
March 11.

From Mr Patrick Arnold

Sir, There is no such thing as a "poor widow in a large house in a middle-class area" (leading article, March 11). This curious concept of claiming someone is poor when they own a valuable asset is one of the many illogical arguments advanced by the supporters of the iniquitous poll tax.

Would a beggar soliciting alms from the window of a Rolls-Royce receive much sympathy? I think not. Why then should anyone holding capital in the form of land receive public sympathy and tax relief? Of course the widow should sell her large house and remove herself to a property more suited to her needs and pocket.

I can only marvel, as did Thomas Paine, on the ability of the landed to shift taxation away from themselves, to place it on the shoulders of the landless, who were, and always will be, the true "poor".

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICK ARNOLD,  
11 Errol Road, Romford, Essex.

From Mr E. M. Greenwood

Sir, I am sure you are right about "back to the rates". Having received my bill for water, based on the old rateable value, surely it would be sensible to collect both water and general rates on the same bill, splitting up the total between the district council and the water board. Believe me to be, your obedient servant.

E. M. GREENWOOD,  
Lane House, Shotteswell,  
Banbury, Oxfordshire.

From Mr Bryan Burdett

Sir, Ten years ago the rating system was generally discredited since it reflected neither use of local services nor ability to pay. Today your leader, "No vote of tears", described it as "a short cut to sanity". Perhaps some kind politician will now close the loop by redefining sanity?

Yours faithfully,  
BRYAN BURDETT,  
York House, 39 The Avenue,  
Fareham, Hampshire.  
March 9.

### Salisbury Close

From Mr Richard Constable

Sir, Because a great artist created beautiful and enduring images of England it does not necessarily mean that these views should never be changed (Mrs Stone's letter, March 7). Nature alters them herself. Trees grow old and die and rivers banks erode.

There are instances where well-planned roads enhance the contours of rolling countryside, but surely it is not possible to pierce the charm of the close at Salisbury with an elevated road and do anything but destroy the eternal qualities that such a place personifies?

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD CONSTABLE  
(Great-grand grandson of  
John Constable, RA),  
Courtfield,  
Northam-Hamdon,  
Stoke-sub-Hamdon, Somerset.  
March 7.

Not only is the consumer denied the rapid emergence of an integrated, high-quality network capable of carrying an array of new services such as high definition television, but the stimulus which this would have provided to the UK optical fibre industry, currently a world leader, is lost.

This comes just as a House of Lords committee launches a scathing attack on the government's failure to display any serious commitment to British industry; a view I can only endorse.

The government's White Paper is an opportunity lost. It may, in ministers' eyes, take one short-term step forward, but it will almost certainly see the UK telecommunications service and equipment industry take two steps backward in the long term.

Yours faithfully,  
TONY YOUNG,  
General Secretary,  
National Communications Union,  
Greystoke House,  
150 Brunswick Road,  
Basing, W8.  
March 7.

### Concern over 'virgin births'

From Sir Timothy Raison, MP for Aylesbury (Conservative)

Sir, Page 1 of *The Times* today carries a report on women seeking "virgin births". Page 3 tells us that a substantial survey has found that children of single mothers living alone are particularly unlikely to see their father.

Inexorably the facts about the extent of family breakdown and single parenthood are piling up and the scale of the financial hardship which flows from these conditions is becoming pretty clear.

What we most need now is authoritative research on their emotional and psychological consequences. Then we might get to grips with the crucial question of whether we simply accept what is happening and try to ameliorate the consequences, or whether we might actually try to reverse the trend by education, precept and perhaps incentives to support marriage.

What is happening is simply too sad to be left to sort itself out.

Yours faithfully,  
TIMOTHY RAISON,  
House of Commons.  
March 11.

From Mr H. V. Hodson

Sir, Talk of "virgin birth" and "fatherless children" is, of course, nonsense. A woman penetrated and inseminated by a surgeon's instrument is no more a virgin than one penetrated and inseminated in the natural way. A birth to a virgin, without the intervention of any male parent, is a unique miracle reserved for Almighty God.

Conception requires the conjunction of ovum and sperm: their producers are the mother and father of the baby conceived. The mother's ignorance of who is the father is irrelevant to that fact.

This is not a mere biological proposition. The child of artificial insemination by an unknown donor, growing up, becomes aware that the pretence of his having no father is and always was false. The trauma the child suffers is quite different from that of other children in so-called "single parent" families, whose fathers are dead or divorced or otherwise permanently absent.

The consciousness of a teenage child that his or her father is not only not present but is actually unknown to his or her mother, who has not even seen him, let alone loved him, must be agonising, and bound to warp a budding personality.

No compassionate person should be party to biological tricks with such an outcome.

Yours faithfully,  
H. V. HODSON,  
Flat 1, 105 Lusham Gardens, W8.  
March 12.

From Ms Jane Ward

Sir, A woman should be free to choose how she becomes a mother — or the rest of her life will be spent in regret.

Yours faithfully,  
JANE WARD,  
67 Glasslyn Road, N8.  
March 11.

From Ms Katie Teakle

Sir, In all the opinionated debate, about imminent "designer progeny" there has been no mention of love. The sexual act can be purely lustful; however within the bounds of kinship it shows, in the most intimate way, vulnerability and generosity. Surely this is what makes us human?

Yours sincerely,  
KATIE TEAKLE,  
Homestead, Queen's Parade,  
Cleethorpe, Humberside.  
March 11.

From Dr Richard Wyndham

Sir, The acceptance that creation of human life can be reduced to the mere scientific manoeuvre, of mixing "harvested" ova with masturbated semen on a glass plate, with no human contact at all, must be the ultimate degradation of humanity.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD WYNDHAM,  
Bramfield House, Barford Road,  
Maringford, Norfolk.  
March 11.

From the Reverend R. D. Hacking

Sir, The child of a virginal conception would be remarkable indeed. According to St Augustine, original sin is passed on by the act of sexual intercourse; hence Christ was free from the taint of sin. In consequence any other human born in similar fashion would be likewise.

I am tempted to think that we should go ahead — and prove that St Augustine was, as many of us have maintained, in error.

Yours sincerely,  
R. D. HACKING,  
Salisbury and Wells  
Theological College,  
19 The Close,  
Salisbury, Wiltshire.  
March 13.

### Paying a price

From Mr C. Cambouropoulos

Sir, On the occasion of non-smoking day, can anyone explain why, if cigarettes kill, they are still included in the cost of living?

Yours faithfully,  
CONSTANTINE  
CAMBOUROPOULOS,  
Ashcroft, Ringmer, East Sussex.  
March 13.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).













# Kamikaze craft seeks new target

After probing Halley's comet, Giotto scientists plan second mission. Nicholas Booth reports

Today, astronomers in laboratories around Europe will celebrate one of the most successful space missions since the Eighties. Exactly five years ago the European Space Agency's Giotto spacecraft passed within 375 miles of the heart of Halley's comet and returned detailed information about our most famous celestial visitor.

The experimenters will toast their good fortune that Giotto survived the encounter so successfully that the craft has been redirected towards another comet.

In late 1986, the agency's spacecraft controllers realised that careful tweaking of the orbit could send Giotto towards an extra target - Comet Grigg-Skjellerup. For this, they had to reactivate the craft and execute a fly-by of the Earth to give it enough energy.

Last February, the agency activated Giotto to check its health, and the initial prognosis was that the thermal and attitude control systems were in good enough shape to make an extended mission possible.

For the ten experiments on Giotto, seven instruments were working, and five were expected

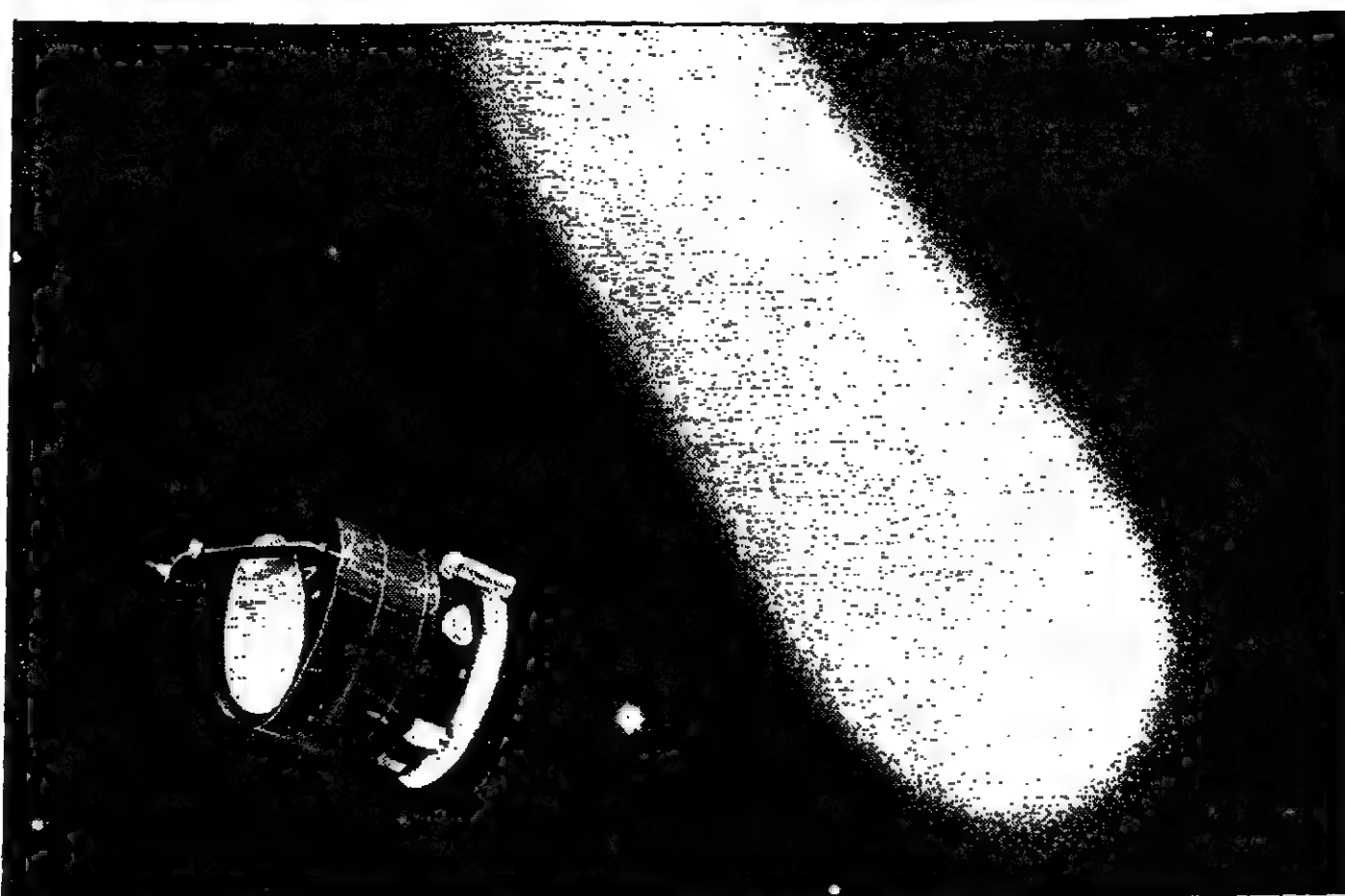
to produce useful data during another cometary encounter. These included two British-built experiments: a dust-impact detector provided by Kent University and a plasma analyser from University College London.

Dr John Zarnecki, of the university's space sciences unit, says: "Every indication is that our instrument has not degraded too badly." Sadly, Giotto's television camera will not return pictures because its light baffle is blocking its field of view, although the way its image detectors have changed in space will provide important engineering data for future missions.

Although the Giotto extended mission (GEM) has been approved as scientifically useful, the budget has not been approved. The agency has put off the decision until June, a year before its intended encounter with the Grigg-Skjellerup comet.

"We have seen only one comet in detail," Dr Zarnecki says. "We need to know whether Halley is typical of the hundreds of comets we know about. Recent evidence suggests that it is not."

The cost of the mission is believed to be about £5 million, cheap compared with the funds required for new missions, but a



Encounter in space: scientists are hoping to obtain the finance to support the Giotto craft's voyage of discovery to a second comet

lot to find from scratch. A British government official comments: "It is virtually impossible for us to find new funds if it is an optional programme. Having said that, I do not think the agency can let GEM go." Dr Zarnecki adds: "It would be shameful to miss GEM because it would give us a new space science mission for peanuts."

Giotto's new lease of life was not planned because its encounter with Halley was almost a kamikaze mission. Giotto was launched towards Halley as the comet had passed its near point to the Sun and was leaving the solar system. The dust and gas

thrown off from the comet nucleus by solar heating was a formidable barrier. With a relative velocity of 44 miles a second, every dust grain had the explosive impact of a hand-grenade. Giotto's ingenious "bumper shield" protected it from the onslaught.

Hours after its encounter, the spacecraft was put into hibernation because its experiments were intended to operate in the dust and gas of a comet's tail, not in deep space. Giotto has since continued to orbit the Sun, occasionally inter-

secting the orbit of the Earth. Giotto's legacy has been to show that comets are probably stranger than had been imagined. Halley's nucleus is one of the darkest objects ever seen, reflecting only 4 per cent of the light reaching it. The nucleus is peanut-shaped, about six miles across, and it wobbles because it is rotating end over tip faster than it spins. Chemical analyses of the dust and gas showed that it contains the building blocks of life: carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen and oxygen.

As Halley heads out of the solar system, it is monitored by a telescope at the European south-

ern observatory in Chile. In February, the nucleus ejected a cloud of material 187,500 miles long, causing the comet to brighten by a factor of 300. "This is very peculiar behaviour," Dr Zarnecki says.

This shows that Halley is more active than other comets. Gerhard Schwehm, the agency's project scientist for the new mission, says: "Grigg-Skjellerup is an older comet, which will help us to understand the physics of how comets evolve during their repeated passes of the Sun."

● The author's Space: The Next 100 Years is published by Mitchell Beazley (£12.99).

## Plenty of life left in the aspirin

Household cure could prevent heart attacks and help in pregnancy

ASPIRIN is so cheap that nobody takes it seriously, a British researcher told a medical conference last week. Richard Peeto, an Oxford University epidemiologist, produced research claiming aspirin can save thousands of lives a year by cutting the risk of heart attacks and strokes by at least 25 per cent.

The results, from an analysis of 215 studies involving 100,000 patients, were given to an American College of Cardiology meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. The anti-coagulant effects of half an aspirin a day would, he said, save the lives of 10,000 in every million Americans treated for heart disease or strokes, and prevent as many non-fatal attacks.

In a study at Boston University medical school, scientists reported last week that aspirin may also lower the risk of bowel cancer by inhibiting body chemicals believed to play a role in the development of tumours.

Meanwhile, the potential benefits of aspirin as a treatment for some pregnancy conditions is being investigated in an international study involving about 5,200 women, most of them British.

Recent research suggests that aspirin can prevent the onset of pre-eclampsia - in which pregnant women develop high blood pressure and associated foetal growth failure - and reduce the need for Caesarean sections. Larger studies are needed to confirm or refute the results.

Dr Christopher Redman, the consultant obstetrician at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, and a researcher for the study, emphasises that no woman should take the drug in pregnancy without close medical supervision, because of the risk of adverse side effects.

In 400 BC, Hippocrates recommended that women drink a brew made from willow leaves to ease the pain of labour. Willow leaves and bark, chemists were to show centuries later, contain salicin, a substance closely related to aspirin.

In the 1890s, chemists working for Bayer in Germany carried out further research and developed techniques, as a result of which the company registered aspirin as a trade mark in 1899.

Since then the drug has found its place in the medicine cabinets of households worldwide. It should, nevertheless, be used cautiously because its side-effects include bleeding of the stomach lining. Children should never be given aspirin except under close medical supervision, and adults should seek doctor's advice before taking it regularly.

THOMSON FRANKTICE



Open wide: the jaws of *Allosaurus* on a museum model

## Following in the footsteps of history

British and Zimbabwean scientists analysing the first detailed investigations into the longest set of dinosaur footprints in Africa are hoping their findings will shed new light on dinosaur behaviour.

The prints, some in almost mint condition, are of 34 steps taken over about 30 yards by a bipedal carnivorous dinosaur with a birdlike three-toed foot that measures 16 inches from heel to toe.

Found in the Zambezi valley in northern Zimbabwe, the footprints are providing an unusually long series of "snapshots" of the reptile

Scientists examining dinosaur tracks in Africa hope to shed new light on the monsters' habits

as it shifted through the slimy surface of a drying freshwater lake about 140 million years ago.

The geology of the site, on the Numbi river in the Chewore safari area, has been correlated with Tanzania's Tendaguru beds and the abundant fossil grounds of the Morrison beds in Wisconsin, areas best known for deposits of the bones of dinosaurs.

Tim Broderick, the Zimbabwean

research geologist who cast the first impressions of the prints, believes the Numbi dinosaur was an *Allosaurus*, towering perhaps 16 feet above ground and an ancestor of the *Tyrannosaurus rex*, the biggest and most voracious of the dinosaurs.

The first 14 prints, with the hint of a claw at every toe, were discovered by an Australian big-game hunter in 1964 as he followed animal tracks across a recently

eroded shelf of soft sandstone. Last year, Dr Theagarten Lingham-Soliar, of Reading University, led an expedition sponsored by the Geological Association for a six-week examination of the trail.

The survey revealed 20 new prints when river alluvium was brushed away to expose the rock. Measurements show the dinosaur taking long, confident strides at first, then stopping and apparently looking up - indicated by an abrupt shortening of pace and the mark of a tail touching the ground.

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# Who thinks cleanliness is next to healthiness?

In spring most women's thoughts still turn to cleaning, although the annual ritual is no guarantee of a hygienic home. Liz Gill reports

Among the maxims scattered through *Enquire Within*, the 1893 home companion, is the promise that "health is the reward of cleanliness". This was no doubt of immense comfort to the housewife about to embark on her spring-cleaning ritual, including scrubbing out the cupboards with carbolic soap, and cleaning wallpaper with flour and water dough.

A Mori survey released today suggests that while we may not be so determined to clean in the spring (many now choose the Christmas period instead), the concept of an annual overhaul persists. The survey, on behalf of the producers of the Vax vacuum cleaner, also shows that a surprisingly high number of women (47 per cent) spend more than ten hours a week cleaning. But the trouble with cleaning is that, in health terms, what you see is not necessarily what you get.

As Dr Sally Bloomfield, a lecturer in pharmaceutical microbiology at King's College, London, says: "We have an obsession with visible dirt which we associate with germs. But you cannot see germs; a warm, wet dish-cloth can be swarming with them."

"Hygiene should be an ongoing process. Spring-cleaning, where you knock out the overall level of dust and grime on floors and walls and so on, does not have a lot of relevance to infection control."

The key, she says, is blocking the route of transmission. It is thus more important to be scrupulous about washing hands than it is "to spend hours going round the bathroom, more useful to soak a dishcloth in bleach than to mop the kitchen floor."

Similarly, disinfectant should be employed to a specific end - "If you have to clear up after the dog, for example, rather than just sloshing it over every surface. What disinfectant actually means is a reduction in germs to the level where they are not normally harmful to health, and you may often do this just as efficiently with soap and water."

"But I would certainly not be one of those people who say you should never use disinfectant because of the possible damage to the environment. Over the past hundred years, disinfectants have contributed substantially to the decline in infectious diseases, and

an abrupt change would be very foolish. On the evidence to date I think the risks of infection are greater than the risks to the environment."

Neither would Dr Bloomfield dismiss the importance of the aesthetics of cleanliness. "I have a feeling that appearance has an effect on the human mind, that we somehow need to perceive cleanliness in order to work in a hygienic way. It is part of feeling positive about ourselves."

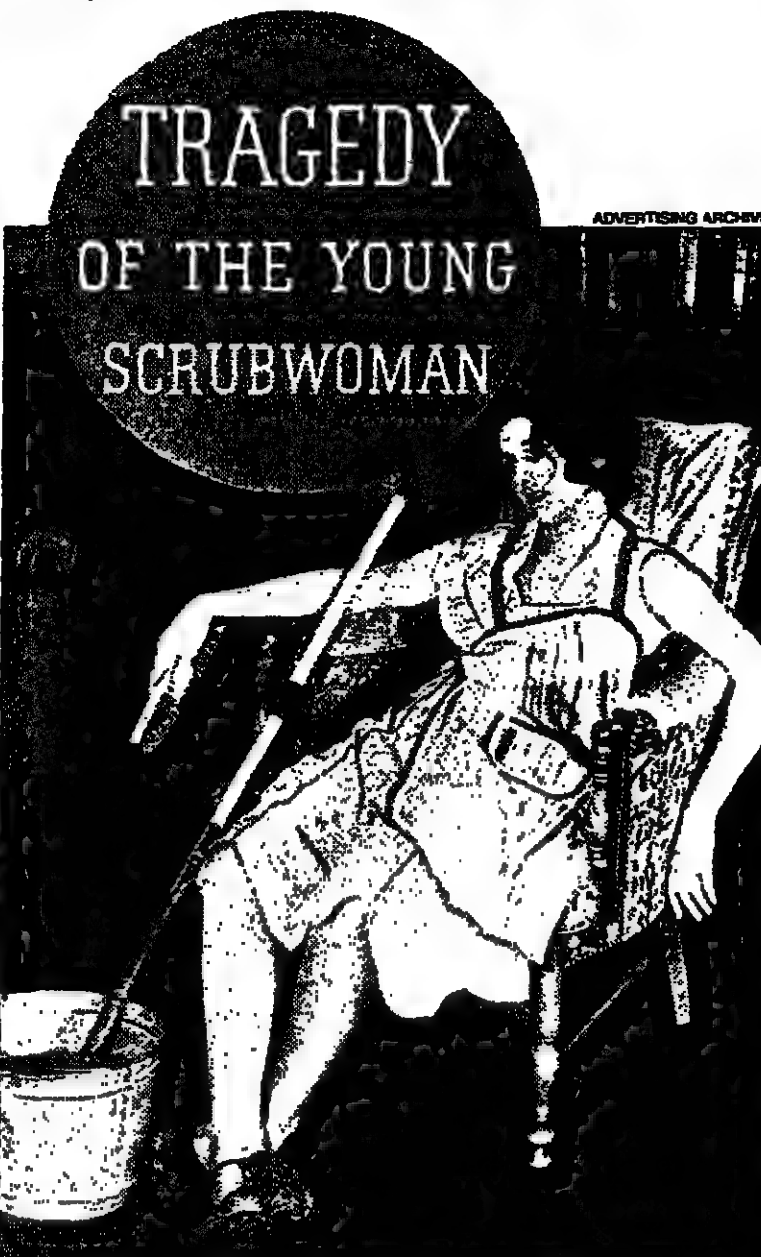
The psychological element of spring-cleaning remains important, even though the physical need for it may have declined, according to Graham Jukes, the under-secretary at the Institution of Environmental Health Officers. "In the days of coal-fire heating there was a genuine need to remove the soot deposits and dust that winter conditions had created. But it also had symbolic benefits - shuffling off the winter - and I think it still does."

"Public health-wise, though, there is a need to clean your house thoroughly a lot more often than once a year. I cannot tell you how many places I have been in that look problem-free, but have had dreadful infestations. I remember one house where they had spotted the odd beetle, and when we lifted up the carpet there was another carpet underneath, of beetles."

As more householders embrace green lifestyles, the need for vigilance will increase. Dr Richard Lane, the head of medical entomology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, says: "The more health foods we eat, unpollished rice, no insecticides, and so on, the more likely we are to see things like weevils. Spring-cleaning is useful, he believes, in reaching the parts routine cleaning tends to miss."

In theory, reducing the number of house-dust mites should benefit asthma sufferers, but in practice the benefits are debatable. Dr Maryn Partridge, a consultant in chest medicine at Whipple Cross hospital, east London, and the chairman of the education committee of the National Asthma Campaign, says: "If you put someone in a totally house-dust free, airtight room for six weeks, there is no doubt that their asthma will improve, but the evidence suggests this cannot be achieved in the home."

Vacuum cleaners without filters sim-



Cleaning can damage your health: from a Johnson's Wax ad of the Thirties

ply send the mites airborne, as does a lot of shaking of curtains.

Dr Jill Warner, a research fellow in child health at Southampton university, points out that children exposed to high levels of airborne pollutants in the first months of life run an increased risk of developing allergic reactions. "We know this is the case with babies born just before or after the tree pollen season, and for those exposed to vast quantities of dust. Certainly, you should not have a baby in a room when you are spring-cleaning, and anyone known to be susceptible should be nowhere near."

Allergy susceptibilities affect about 20 per cent of the population, says Dr Ian White, a consultant dermatologist

at St John's Dermatology Centre in London, and these are the ones most likely to suffer chronic irritant contact dermatitis from household cleansers. "Cleansers de-grease your skin just as they de-grease your pots and pans. If it becomes chronic, it will need special medication and can take months to clear up. The answer is to wear rubber gloves with cotton ones underneath to absorb the sweat."

Dr Bloomfield says it is even possible to be too clean. "The widest continued exposure to small numbers of organisms probably maintains our resistance, which is why populations in remote areas can be decimated by outsiders bringing in their viruses."

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## MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttard

### Child-sized problem

Having read of the social workers' dawn raid on South Ronaldsay island, parents looking at any child destined by nature to be a cox rather than a second row rugby forward may wonder, usually unnecessarily, if they have erred. Is their child just small, possibly like granddad, or has he or she in the medical jargon "failed to thrive", a term now given a hint of menace after its repeated use by social workers advancing it as one of the reasons for the separation of children from their families?



Children who fail to gain weight and height at the same rate as their contemporaries pose a difficult diagnostic problem. A simple rule is that the more they lag behind, the more likely there is to be a discernible cause; even so, most children of unusually small stature are not suffering from any abnormality, nor have they been physically or emotionally deprived, but are merely exhibiting a family trait or the late effects of a

low birth weight. Other children are late developers; John Kendall-Carpenter, the legendary rugby forward, was too small to be chosen for his college side while on a short wartime university course, but after he returned to Oxford following war service he was tall and heavy enough to captain the university side and England; there is no evidence that he was in any way deprived in early life.

More important than the height and weight of a child is its demeanour. Is he or she energetic and jolly, or listless and depressed? If the latter, is it due to environment or heredity? Congenital heart, lung and metabolic diseases, chronic infection and faulty nutrition have to be excluded as reasons for a child's failure to thrive before the condition can be safely attributed to emotional deprivation or physical or mental abuse. Escapers from the pace of mainland life are just the type to favour the high-fibre diet, so often short in calories and essential proteins, vitamins and minerals, which is becoming a common cause of malnutrition.

Given the difficulty of unravelling the causes of small stature, and the failure to consult the Ronaldsay GP about his patients' past medical history, their present health and their socio-economic background, such a diagnosis by the social workers would seem at best unwise.

### More fertile ground

While the dispute over the artificial insemination of single women in their late twenties and thirties has received maximum publicity, a small advance in the treatment of endometriosis, a common cause of infertility in women of exactly the same age group, has passed without notice.

In endometriosis, which affects around 15 per cent of women aged 20 to 35, endometrial tissue, the lining of the womb, migrates and grows in the pelvic cavity and other pelvic organs including the ovaries, intestines and bladder, or even further afield, when it may affect the umbilicus, pre-existing abdominal scars, or even the lungs. It almost invariably causes infertility; surprisingly, this infertility may occur when the disease is otherwise symptom-free. It also causes chronic lower abdominal pain, which is worse at period times, and during sexual intercourse; occasionally monthly bleeding from unexpected sites.

If symptoms are troublesome hormones are prescribed to prevent further

migration of uterine tissue, and to encourage the shrinkage of any endometrium which has already spread. Danazol is the usual drug of choice, but recently Roussel Laboratories has launched Dimetrisone (gestrone), which, it is claimed, is equally effective but only needs to be taken twice weekly rather than daily, and has fewer side effects. After prolonged treatment with hormones, regression of the endometriosis may occur, and in many cases pregnancy will follow. The side effects of hormone treatment for endometriosis are usually mild. Occasionally patients complain of minimal visualisation; decrease of the voice, acne and hirsutism. Others have noted a change in interests; a usually demure girl may swap embroidery for hang gliding, a finding which questions the relative importance of upbringing and physical make-up in gender.

### Gunning for trouble

Arguing are so commonly given to boys to train them in the use of guns, and they are then as casual in the way they use them, that one small road in a cathedral city became known as "hell-fire alley". The accepted view that airguns rank halfway between cap pistols and an adult gun has been challenged by a study published in the journal *Eye*, by three doctors from the department of ophthalmology in Glasgow. In a ten-year period, 41 patients were admitted to the department with eyes injured by airgun pellets. Boys were seven times more likely to have been hit than girls; almost invariably these



injuries were accidental. These boys paid heavily for their education; 38 per cent lost the greater part of the sight from one eye, 10 per cent were completely blinded. Already, airguns may not be sold to people under 16; the authors make a plea that this legislation should be strengthened.

## Rationing out the remedies

An American plan to rank complaints - and redistribute the money to treat them - could help NHS funds go further

HAT would you think if your doctor refused to treat your illness because it was not his "value for money" list? It is the situation which will be people in the American state of Oregon later this year. But healthcare rationing is a purely American phenomenon. It occurs in the United Kingdom every day, but doctors claim it will get worse after April 1, when the National Health Service makes hospitals even more budget conscious. Costly drugs for treating cancer and kidney disease, experimental therapies, transplants and treatments such as in vitro fertilisation are among the candidates most likely to be rationed. The Oregon list was produced because four out of ten

residents had slipped through the health insurance net. Most of them earned too much to qualify for public insurance, but could not afford private insurance premiums. The state set out to establish a basic healthcare package. An earlier attempt to sort out healthcare priorities attracted widespread criticism last year: it ranked cosmetic surgery on the breast ahead of treating fractured legs. In the latest attempt, 714 health services were ranked according to their cost, improvement in quality of life, and effect on

life expectancy. Infertility treatments come fairly low on the list: the more expensive test-tube baby techniques - IVF and GIFT - were very close to the bottom, at 701. Later this year the state legislature will decide where the treatment line is to be drawn. The money saved on treatments no longer offered will be used to extend public health insurance.

A number of ailments which would be treated without question on the NHS, including chronic pancreatitis, and constitutional aplastic anaemia, are at the bottom of the Oregon list. The low rating of chronic pancreatitis may reflect the fact that it often results from alcohol abuse. Constitutional aplastic anaemia, a life-threatening disease in children and young adults, is treated with bone marrow transplants.

Paul Kind, a research fellow at York university's centre for health economics, has just returned from a fact-finding trip to Oregon. He is impressed by the large amount of information on the outcome of various procedures collected within a short period of time. "That suggests that a similar exercise is feasible in this country," he says.

Mr Kind points out that while healthcare rationing in Britain tends to exclude certain types of patients, in Oregon it is medical conditions which are excluded. "In this country," he says, "we have management by shroud waving, and the problem with all this special pleading is that some individuals get treatment at the expense of others."

Robert Low, a Glasgow infertility specialist, is also well aware of the contrast between treatment on the NHS (which is subsidised by the private sector in his city) and the treatments doctors can offer patients who have

the means to pay. "In the private sector, doctors can take and help women who are over 37, or whose partners have low sperm counts," Mr Low says. "They have no chance within the NHS."

Another way of applying rationing is by looking at the age of patients. Heart transplants are most likely to be offered to those aged between 20 and 40, while some kidney transplant centres are still reluctant to operate on patients more than 70 years old. This limit may also be applied to patients seeking coronary artery bypass operations.

More understandably, perhaps, persistent smokers whose habit has caused circulation problems in their legs are refused surgery until they quit. Similarly, alcoholics seeking a liver transplant need to show they have overcome their addiction. But David Wheatley, a professor of cardiology at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, who prepared to operate on smokers, says: "We have to be careful about making judgments about patients' lifestyles. The next thing would be to refuse treatment to people who do not wear seat belts."

Expensive, but superior drug treatments are also causing much heart searching. Drugs have been developed which are much more effective at relieving the nausea experienced by cancer patients treated with chemotherapy agents. But because they cost £8 for an injection some centres are limiting them.

George Jacob, a consultant surgeon at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield, believes that restrictions on the use of interferon 2, a new cancer treatment, owe more to its high price than its experimental nature. "I don't think you can say it is experimental when Britain is one of only two European countries which has not given it a product licence. The real issue is one of finance, and refusing its use is a form of rationing which is spurious and unfair."

ANN KENT

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# Hijack me didgeridoo, blue

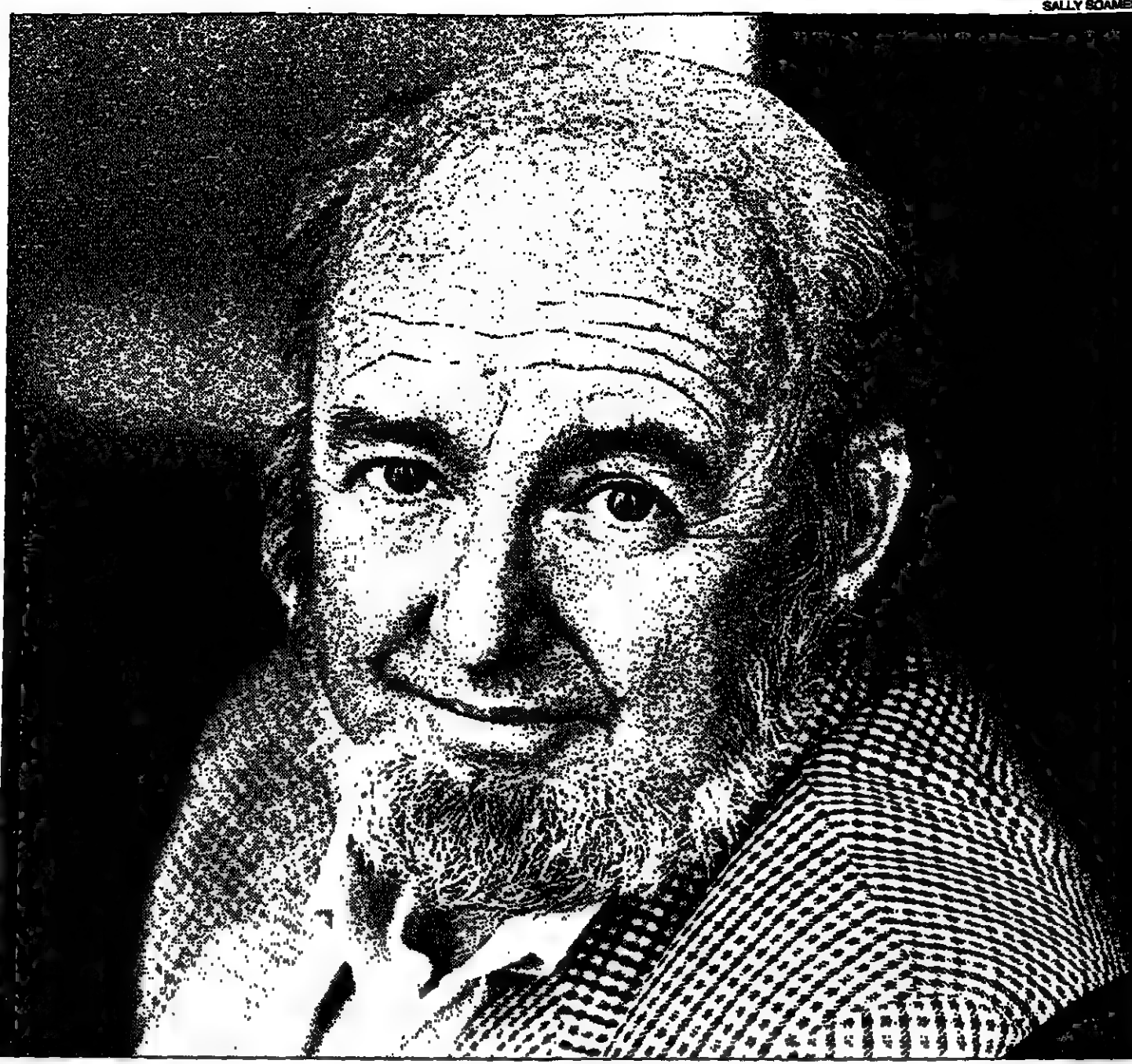
Anthony Quinton on an everyday story of a flight, with aboriginal folk and supporting cast of stereotypes

His appears on the surface to be just an exciting story about an aircraft hijacking. Thomas Kenally has, however, introduced a spicy new ingredient by including on the passenger manifest a group of Australian Aboriginal dancers, on their way to Frankfurt from a successful visit to New York. There are only five of them, so they can be distinguished from one another: the sophisticated star performer, who takes drugs; a traditional-minded uncle figure; a quiet one who plays the didgeridoo, and is devoted to the Queen of England; a devout Christian, and so on.

The central figure is Frank McCloud, the tour manager of the troupe. He is moderately alcoholic, and has been working for some years on a novel which has not greatly excited his agent in New York. His efficient and sensible wife, Pauline, has come along for the ride. She earns twice what he does and, in effect, supports him. His prevailing frame of mind, therefore, is one of quietly maudlin self-pity. The backbone of the narrative is his passage towards heroic redemption.

The hijackers are five in number and have disyllabic names, Talia, Yusuf, Hani, Musa, Ramiz. They speak in an ill-fashioned, grammatical and courteous fashion. When they take the plane over they single out an American Jewish computer salesman of a dignified State Department type, and an extravagantly cynical *Daily Telegraph* reporter called Cale for special treatment. McCloud is lumped in with them because a politically dubious corporation, planning to secure diamond mining concessions in the Aboriginals' region, is among the main sponsors of the tour. The only other distinctive personage aboard is Daisy Nakamura, an attractive Japanese-American woman, a Goldwater Republican on her first trip to Europe. She adds some additional colour and plays an important, erotically self-sacrificial role when the going gets really rough.

The reader's anxiety is awoken soon after take-off, and is kept at a high pitch throughout. The book is not recommended reading for an air trip. Interspersed in the scenes on the aircraft are McCloud's



Thomas Kenally, teller of rattling good yarns of adventure, who uses the novel as a confirmation of the front page splash by other means

recollections and his thoughts about his present situation. They ought to add a further dimension to the book but somehow they do not manage to. McCloud's musings do not engage with the main drama. For example, he recalls a school teacher whose fine bosom was greatly admired by him and his friends. One day she fell over in the classroom in a dizzy spell and her fine head of hair proved to be a wig. It turned out that her husband was slowly poisoning her with thallium. The anecdote is too arresting to be allowed just to float by.

Thomas Kenally's novels have dealt with a large variety of places and times: a Catholic seminary,

convicts in early Australia, Joan of Arc, the Arctic, the Holocaust. His kind of unobstructed readiness to take up any kind of straightforwardly interesting theme brings to mind the novels of R. C. Hutchinson, with whom, indeed, there is some overlap of subject-matter. But he is a less serious writer. On the other hand, there are intimations in what he writes of deeper literary intentions than are to be found in the books of such direct and uncomplicated adventure story writers as Hammond Innes, Geoffrey Jenkins, or Desmond Bagley.

## FLYING HERO CLASS

By Thomas Kenally  
Hodder & Stoughton, £13.95

He is most reminiscent of Morris West, although he writes better. There is the sense of the novel as a continuation of the newspaper by other means. There are all sorts of echoes here. Of *Le Carré*, for example, in the suggestion that is brought up but never resolved, that the whole thing is not what it appears but is a set-up, arranged and paid for by Moscow, to heighten tension at a moment when that is convenient for Israel. Then there is the lady who shouts at the three scapegoats as they are paraded along the aisles

of the plane. It is hard not to visualise her as Shelley Winters. At one important point, the final crisis inside the plane, obscurity prevails about just what is happening, apart from noise, confusion and people bumping into each other. That is surely ruled out by the adventure story writer's oath, just as poisons unknown to science are in the corresponding detective tradition. I must confess, too, that I was not convinced that, even in New York, audiences would get excited about people dancing to represent sacred groves and unscrupulous rate in front of recently executed acrobatic paintings of holy rocks and water holes.

# Drop out from the big Bomb

THE Nevada desert holds out the promise of peace and spacious living for anyone with the courage to claim it; but it is also the home of the hydrogen bomb, a place where tests took place in pursuit of knowledge so terrible that it altered the outlines of all civilisation. Michael Doane shows how these two images counterbalance each other in the lives of Vance Ravel and his father. The father, a sergeant in that corner of the US army which carried out the tests, fulfilled his duties faithfully and uncritically, hoping to become an officer and provide his family with a better pension. One by one his friends became ill or died. He realised what was happening and knew he'd had enough, so suddenly one day he simply "walked into the light" and was gone. The completeness of this death had a

lasting effect on his son, causing a restlessness in adult life only quieted when he commits himself to the happiness of domestic life with wife and child in the solitude of the desert. There he cultivates his garden and enjoys the good life, but it cannot last untested. He is besieged first by one and then by many rootless people who seek the calm which he has gained. They settle themselves nearby and decide he is their prophet, that he is the centre of their lives and must contribute to their rituals. His family leaves him and the idyll is ruined. He must burn the commune out before he can be free of them, and then live through years of urban penance before regaining what he had. Perhaps the dream itself is a little unexciting. Although Doane seems to be writing a fable for our times, he is, in fact, arranging polished stereotypes in patterns not quite new enough to save the reader from unease.

Another type of unease is provoked by George V. Higgins' account of small town Vermont. A baseball player uses his celebrity status to get himself up as a candidate for Congress, thereby setting the scene for all the potential corruption and muck-making available on such occasions. The year is 1968, and America is juddering with the complexity of emotions which led to the murders of Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy, and

stories are about the particular fear felt by women in the face of aggressive masculinity. Men are seen as callous and brutalised by their institutions, and by their language, both of which emphasise the brotherhood they share in exclude and so to humiliate women. Janice Galloway often conveys her gloomy thoughts with humour, and without personal anger. It is urban life itself which brings the threat of violence, not the people living in it.

In his first novel, *Surface Tension*, Greg Snow deals with threats and violence on a lighter, more designer level. His hero is a bright young copywriter whose one problem is that he seems to be turning into a cartoon. When under pressure, his arms, legs and indeed all parts of his body place themselves in extraordinary positions, or stretch out into strange shapes quite beyond his control. Sometimes he even finds that cartoon balloons materialise out of his ears, imprinted with his own

funniest thoughts. Such a disability is full of comic promise, and Snow takes the most of it, poking fun at the idiotic values of the world his hero moves in, but still joking.

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BOY, GIRL, BOY, GIRL

By David Michaelis  
Bantam New Fiction, £4.99

ORDINARY LOVE

By Jane Smiley  
Flamingo, £4.99

school in New England. He falls for Betty Mansfield, owner of the school's largest bosom. He also flirts with her sister. The plot consists largely of his failure to bed either of them. The writing is clumsy, offering sentences such as "Somebody in one of the houses was baking bread, and I could almost feel the lumps of new

dough rising in my heart," the characterisations thin, the insights superficial. The 30-year-old narrator seems hardly to have moved on from the 13-year-old boy.

There are good moments, however. David Michaelis gets considerable mileage out of adolescent eccentricities. Scenes of boys classifying bosoms or preparing for bed, with the OED in case of insomnia, throat warmers and French earplugs, are entertaining. His book provides fresh insight into why America hates its Wasps.

This upper-class is as protected, insular and complacent as Erdrich's Indians are vulnerable and unsure. Unfortunately, the author achieves no ironic distance from his privileged world.

By contrast, one of the strengths of Jane Smiley's novella, *Ordinary Love*, is the constant presence of another, less affluent realm within that of the Kinsella family in Iowa. The narrator and two of her grown-up children are waiting for

Michael, another child, to return from two years of teaching in India. He arrives, with amoebic dysentery. None of the family can ever quite forget, as they agonise about their relationships, the more pressing agonies of the world he still half inhabits. Jane Smiley is an honest writer, never thrilling but often illuminating. But *Ordinary Love* is undermined by the lack of credibility of the narrator. It is difficult to believe that this level-headed woman did something so foolish as to tell her egomaniac husband about her affair with a neighbour, causing him to abscond with the children.

A similar lack presents even greater difficulties in the second novella in this volume, "Good Will". Robert Miller is living the self-sufficient life in a forest in Pennsylvania with his wife and seven-year-old son. The son's growing psychological difficulties, as a result of feeling deprived, envious and embarrassingly different from his peers, are plausible and fascinating. But the narrator seems a wise, sensitive, middle-aged woman thinly disguised as an egomaniac male. This narrator could never really have forced a small son to help slaughter lambs against his will.

WHAT with the unhealthy modern tendency towards flaccid blockbusters, it seems churlish to complain that a book isn't long enough. But to say that Stephen Gallagher's latest leaves you panting for more is a criticism rather than a puff as with his last novel, *Rain*, you feel that the plot has been wrapped up too abruptly. Still, it is better to want more than to wish there were less, and one's dissatisfaction stems partly from the writer's skill in conjuring up a location, populating it with likeable, believable characters, lighting the blue touch-paper, and standing back for fireworks which are gone in a flash. Perhaps, in Gallagher's case, one should say waterworks rather than fireworks. *The Boat House* is another of his psycho-thrillers in watery settings. This time, it's a lakeside resort, and the psycho is of mammoth supernatural provenance: folklorists and Dvorak fans will sit up and take notice when the ethereal Russian girl who takes refuge with the local mechanic describes herself as a *russalka*. She translates this as "heartbreaker", but readers unfamiliar with the word can rest assured it entails a fair amount of green slime.

• The Shaft, by David J. Schow (*Macdonald*, £12.95). Schow is the chap who first coined the term *splatter punk*, and his second novel is every bit as splattery and punkish as his first, *The Kill Riff*. Nice, middle-class graphic artist finds himself allied with drug dealer and prostitute against the amorphous creature which is devouring the inhabitants of a crumbling Chicago apartment block. Much blood is spilled and many, many grams of cocaine are snorted, but what neither the plot résumé nor the gloopy jacket illustration tell you is that Schow is a humdinger of a writer who can twist the standard shock-horror situation into a series of character sketches, all of them delivered so energetically that his words practically pogo off the page.

# Nastiness in the boatshed

## HORROR

Anne Billson

THE BOAT HOUSE



By Stephen Gallagher  
New English Library, £13.99

• Moon Dance, by S. P. Somtow (*Gollancz*, £14.99). A journalist interviewing a schizophrenic serial killer hears how a pack of European werewolves headed west into South Dakota, circa 1880, with a wide-eyed, wolf-fancying governor in tow. This chunky tome aims to do for lycanthropy what *Interview with the Vampire* did for vampires, but Somtow is labouring under a number of disadvantages, chief amongst which is that he is a plodding writer with a dull style and no sense of humour. He also has a fondness for bestial, bodice-ripping sex scenes, which reach their nadir when the governor screams, "Please sir, I am defenceless", at the wolf who is raping her. I must admit I have personal prejudices against werewolves; unlike vampires, they are messy creatures, not only making sausage-meat out of their victims, but also - according to this book - urinating all over the place to mark their territory. Music lovers

may be amused at the idea of a frontier town named after a Schubert song-cycle ("Winter Eye"), and one admires Somtow's ambition, but readers with a hankering for horror in the old west would be better advised to seek out Cormac McCarthy's extraordinary *Blood Meridian*.

• The Mammoth Book of Terror, edited by Stephen Jones (*Robinson*, £3.99). Call me a yellow-bellied wimp, but Robinson's jacket illustrations are getting out of hand; this one is so vile I'm not sure I want to keep it in the house. For once, though, the contents live up to the cover; anyone subscribing to the less-is-more school of horror fiction should steer well clear of this collection. Graham Masterton's *Pig's Dinner*, for example, reads as if the author has set out to write the most repulsive story he can think of. However, the biscuit is definitely taken by F. Paul Wilson's *Buckets*, an anti-abortion tirade which manages to hack through all the complicated, sensitive issues involved to come up with something thoroughly offensive and objectionable, not to mention insulting to all the women who have ever been seduced with that life-or-death choice.

• Billy, by Whitley Streiber (*Macdonald*, £13.95). Streiber's latest is described by its publishers as "Every parent's worst nightmare": a 12-year-old boy is abducted by a psychopath who gets his jollies from torturing small children to death. The tale is spun out in effective will-they-won't-they-get-there-in-time fashion, but in the end it is all rather sleazy and prurient, reminiscent of those true-life detective magazines in which real pain and terror are milked for cheap thrills. One would have to be pretty warped to enjoy this sort of thing, but it makes you think about your expectations of horror fiction, and about what constitutes poor taste in a genre packed with severed heads and exploding eyeballs.

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# Left on the old elf

## FANTASY

Philippa Toomey

THOMAS THE RHYMER

By Ellen Kushner  
Gollancz, £13.99

both take up the story. He becomes a great and rich man, but with a final gift from the Queen. He is True Thomas - he must say what is true when questioned. There is yet one other gift the Queen promised - to be present at the hour of his death. The book reads with the story-telling power of the old ballad. In later life Thomas can still hear the horns of Elfland, faintly blowing.

Seven years pass, and he returns, still youthful, to Meg, and to his earthly lover, Elspeth, who

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CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

# Sleepwalker goes nap for Academy Awards

Hollywood's Department of Uplift and Tears is responsible for *Awakenings* (12, Odeon Leicester Square). You know the signs: a true story about human strife and optimism, designed to tug at the audience's heart, a fastidious visual surface, virtuoso acting from a major star, a clutch of Academy Award nominations. This is clearly Best Picture material; while Robert De Niro's meticulous performance as Leonard Lowe, a neurological patient variously afflicted with tics and catatonic trances, is an obvious contender for the actor's Oscar.

The film draws on Dr Oliver Sacks' experiences at a Brooklyn hospital in 1969, when he used an experimental drug, L-Dopa, to "reawaken" lingering victims of the sleeping sickness epidemic of the 1920s. It is a strange, touching story, which has already inspired plays (Harold Pinter's one-act *A Kind of Alaska* among them) and television documentaries. A revised version of Yorkshire Television's 1974 programme, used as source material by the filmmakers, is being screened on ITV tomorrow night.

To prevent the hospital drama becoming too downbeat, Robin Williams is cast as the Sacks figure — a shy, nervous doctor obsessed with penetrating the outward silence of his patients, lost in oblivion for decades. Hemmed in by a beard and an ungainly gait, Williams gives a delightful performance — far subtler than his likeable cartoon of an English teacher in *Dead Poets Society*.

With Williams in place, comedy trips up the unwary spectator; while the seddening

Geoff Brown on *Awakenings*, *Coming Out*, *The Road Home* and *Blood Oath*

spectacle of Leonard's final decline is offset by the Uplift Department's life-affirming message. *Awakenings* teaches us to rejoice in the simple things: work, play, family, the daily round.

The film takes its director, Penny Marshall, on the same bold leap Jerry Zucker managed with *Ghost* last summer: from idle comedy to high-concept drama. She copes splendidly, steering the story through its fluctuating moods, while catching the eerie sense of patients trapped in a time-warped, waking into a foreign world of fridges, lunar landings, and mini-skirts.

The film takes the same bold leap as *Ghost*: from idle comedy to high-concept drama

Marshall avoids undue sentimentality, though she can do little about the script's fine of gibes. One minute Leonard and his fellow patients are statues; the next, they paint the town red. Hollywood characters clog the fringe: Penelope Ann Miller's hospital visitor, the brief object of Leonard's romantic affections; Julie Kavner's devoted nurse, waiting patiently for Williams to awaken himself and take their relationship beyond the professional.

But the film's core remains intact. De Niro charts with microscopic sensitivity both Leonard's delight in his new

life, and his agonised withdrawal; while the pain of family adjustment emerges in stage veteran Ruth Nelson's powerful performance as Leonard's mother. Glib, glossy moments aside, the Uplift and Tears boys have done their work well.

*Coming Out* (15, Metro), an East German drama about a homosexual high-school teacher, opened in Berlin on the day the Wall was breached, in November 1989. With its open criticism of the country's moral orthodoxy, one imagines the director to be a toasted, rebellious youth. Not so: Heiner Carow, now in

his early sixties, is an East German veteran of 12 features (he is interviewed by David Robinson below).

*Coming Out* begins with a fine flourish. In a sky lit by exploding fireworks, an ambulance, with sirens blazing, snakes through the night-time traffic. Philipp, the teacher, is being rushed to hospital after a suicide attempt. Sadly, Carow then changes gear: the film becomes a worthy trek through Philipp's tribulations. After cultivating a girlfriend, the teacher becomes magnetised by an attractive youth. Fearing exposure at school, he lies to both part-

ners; ultimately, he loses both. "I'm a teacher and I'm gay," he moans. To Western audiences, the breast-beating will seem old-fashioned; but we are dealing here with a rigid society cocooned in time, almost like the patients in *Awakenings*.

The surface detail appears authentic enough. Carow took his cameras into boisterous gay haunts, and hired the clientele into playing small parts — like the old man with memories of Nazi persecution who tells the hero to stop self-pitying. Yet Carow never articulates the dramatic conflicts with enough force to punch the film home for international audiences. *Coming Out* must be content with milkop words of praise: interesting, sensitive, decently acted.

None of the above applies to *The Road Home* (15, Cannon Pantan Street), though Hugh Hudson's film — two years old and known in America as *Lost Angels* — deserves a corner in some Museum of Cinema Curios. So much self-conscious, self-defeating art went into this tale of a California juvenile in a psychiatric holding-pen for troublesome adolescents. Juan Ruiz-Archia's camera feasts on grand vistas, burnished light, stylized backgrounds; while the script, by playwright Michael Weller, chops up the story into an aggravating patchwork, by turns cryptic and oblique. Even the music has ideas above its station: the theme tune is adapted, with acknowledgement, from Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius*.

All the while, the themes of the picture — the collapse of



Virtuoso patient and delightful doctor: Robert De Niro with Robin Williams in Penny Marshall's *Awakenings*

American middle-class family life, the misuse of mental institutions as dumping grounds for "rich-boy garbage", as the hospital cleaner puts it — fade further and further from view. Under Hudson's cold, calculating gaze, the dramatic possibilities flicker and die: characters become whirled down into ciphers or decorative props.

As the irresponsible young offender, Adam Horowitz (lead singer of the Beastie Boys rap group) spends most of his time preening in sullen self-pity. This may hugely advance his pin-up status, but it does nothing to make his

character sympathetic. Among the adults, Donald Sutherland applies a few grace notes as the hospital shrink with emotional problems of his own, though he remains just a piece in the film's jigsaw. Five years after the debacle of *Revolution*, Hugh Hudson — a talented filmmaker, but one in serious need of a strong-armed producer — has still to get back on track.

A far bigger pin-up, *Neighbors* (luminary Jason Donovan, makes his film debut in *Blood Oath* (15, Odeon Mezzanine), though if you doze off, or even blink, you might miss his single line of dialogue

as a young, kindly soldier. Most of the time, the screen is filled with Bryan Brown, writhing his forehead and thrusting forth his chin as a tough Australian officer in 1946 prosecuting alleged Japanese war criminals over atrocities committed at an Indonesian POW camp. It is a forceful but wearisome performance in a monotonous film.

Blame the script for some of the sluggish pace. Dull words blurt the edge of the trial's twists and turns, and the underlying conflict between justice and political expediency. (The Americans wish to soft-pedal the affair, to enhance their control over Japan's reconstruction.) Blame, too, the studio look of the Indonesian setting instead of flesh-and-blood people in a story ripped from history's headlines. We seem to be watching movie puppets, plodding through an old, dog-eared drama.

John Polson etches a memorable cameo as a ravaged ex-prisoner, living witness to Japanese brutality; Toshi Shoyu briefly touches the heart as an anguished lieutenant, the trial's scapegoat. But the film, directed by Stephen Wallace, remains obstinately stuck in its rut.

CINEMA: INTERVIEW

## Freedom of expression goes with the territory

David Robinson meets Heiner Carow, director of the first (and last) East German film with a homosexual subject

The producers of *Coming Out* (see Geoff Brown's review, above) took place in East Berlin on November 9, 1989: the night the Wall was breached. "Though in fact we knew nothing about all that at the time," recalls the director, Heiner Carow, "we were too caught up with the premiere."

"It was only afterwards, when we went on to a party in the gay locale that figures in the film, that we realised something was happening. To be truthful, we weren't exactly thrilled by it all, because we felt that it was going to mean disaster for the film — no-one would be interested in movies now. Amazingly, it turned out exactly the contrary. The cinema was sold out for 13 weeks. "The film turned out to

have an incredible political impact. People saw it as symbolic. This particular taboo had been broken down: now all the other taboos could go. Every man and every woman in this country needed a kind of 'coming out'."

For 40 years homosexuality was no subject for discussion in the old socialist countries. Such aberrations were strictly the problem of the decadent West. "Of course they knew what was happening, but they did not want to show it. In this purified socialist society there were only heroic people. There were no human flaws."

Censorship had eased a good deal even before November 1989 — but not, it seemed, in this delicate area. "Two or three years earlier we had wanted to show a homosexual

man as an incidental character in a film, and it was totally banned. This was really the reason we set about this script. "When we did it last time it was the director-general of DEFA (the old East German state production company), he said that there was no way he would let this film be made in his studios. But we had taken the precaution of consulting a legal expert. We collected evidence about the way that communists and homosexuals had suffered side by side in the Nazi concentration camps. We talked to people who have fought for the abolition of Paragraph 175, which condemns homosexuals."

"We also collected a lot of evidence to show how common in East Germany are suicides among youngsters of 16 or so who discover that they are homosexual, tell their parents, and are thereupon turned out of their homes."

"So we took the script and this dossier of expert opinion to the Academy of Arts. The Academy ruled that there were no grounds for refusing the script, and so we finally got permission. By the way, the director-general left."

"When they actually saw the finished film, the board were embarrassed — simply



Matthias Frieling and Dirk Kummer in *Coming Out*

because they had had no idea what was happening, but had thought the worst, that it would be puritan."

Far from being puritan, *Coming Out* is an unusually compassionate and understanding examination of the problems incidental to homosexual life. The hero is a young schoolteacher, fearful that his sexual and emotional orientation may exclude him from a job that he performs responsibly and well.

Quite apart from the script, the film has documentary value. It was shot in the bars

and other rendezvous of Berlin's gay milieu — clandestine places under the old regime.

Playing homosexual roles was a new experience for East German actors. "We were afraid that the boys might have trouble after the film. None of the actors feared that it would affect them professionally, but they were afraid they might get beaten up in the S-Bahn."

"This didn't happen at all. On the contrary people left flowers outside their flats; and they found that strange

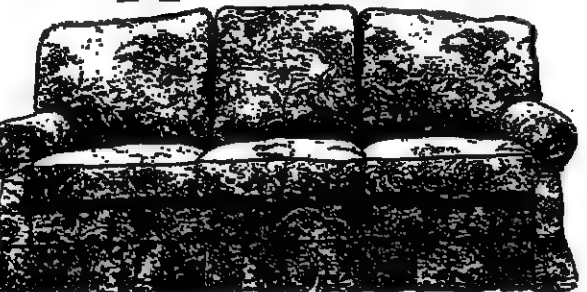
women would rush up and kiss them in the street."

The film's success in the West was guaranteed when it won the Silver Bear at the 1990 Berlin Film Festival. "Since then I've been to many countries with the film, and my experience is that wherever you go people and the situation are the same."

"In Los Angeles I took part in the Gay Pride parade. Everybody was cheering and it gave a fantastic feeling of liberation. So I was surprised by the interviews that followed. They explained that in Hollywood, if anyone gets wind that an actor is gay, he is flushed. Mankind is very much alike under the skin, whatever country."

Even though the international success of *Coming Out* has helped rather than harmed Carow's own career, he finds himself in the same precarious situation as most employees of the formerly state-supported East European cinemas. "I have worked for DEFA for 40 years, but with effect from March 31 I was fired, along with 1,200 people. On December 10 I began my last film for DEFA, which is also DEFA's last film. "Nobody knows what happens next. People hope that the studios can be sold as a going concern, for Western companies to rent; but I do not know if there will be enough work to keep it going."

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CLASSICAL MUSIC

## Venerable band is young at heart

A British visit by the 'world's oldest' orchestra is welcomed by Hilary Finch

Scandinavia and the Soviet Union have never been so close, musically at least. With such conductors as Mariss Jansons at Oslo, Alexander Dmitriyev at Stavanger, and now Dmitri Kitzenko appointed as musical director of the Bergen Philharmonic, three of Norway's four orchestras find themselves under Soviet rule.

Kitzenko's appointment at Bergen is a symptom of the changing image of Scandinavian orchestras, which has led to the Bergen Philharmonic's ten-day British tour. When Bergen was Norway's premier city, in the mid-18th century, the orchestra was the nation's number one as well. Forget about Oslo: the *Harmonie*, as the band was originally called, was giving concerts before Haydn had even taken up his position at Esterházy. Forget

about Leipzig, too. Founded in 1765, the Bergen Philharmonic is still trying to persuade the *Guinness Book of Records* that, at the age of 225, it is the oldest orchestra in continuous existence in the world.

This continuity grew out of the orchestra's firm rooting not in church or court, but in the paragon of the mercantile middle classes of this flourishing Hanse port. In modern times, the orchestra has been the beneficiary of almost total public subsidy.

But this typically Scandinavian system of total patronage has made for a certain insularity. Marketing has fallen behind, and only now is the orchestra seeking private sponsorship for large recording projects and foreign tours.

This is only its second visit to England — the first was in 1972 — and it comes at a time of high morale. The orchestra has a new recording contract with Virgin (the first disc, of Grieg and Liszt piano concertos with Leif-Ove Andsnes, is in the Norwegian pop

charts). There is delight, too, in its new conductor, Lenningd-born Kitzenko, principal conductor of the Moscow Philharmonic until last October, had worked with the orchestra for ten years. He was clearly the players' choice to succeed Aldo Ceccato as principal conductor: they warm to the patience and humour of this meticulous trainer. He, in turn, admires the brightness and malleability of string playing nurtured by his predecessor.

David Stewart, the orchestra's Canadian leader, confirms Kitzenko's effect. "We've come a long way quickly. There's already a greater variety of timbre, sharper articulation."

"Scandinavian orchestras," comments Stewart, "have tended to follow the German tradition of 19th-century orchestral playing: ponderous, with heavy vibrato and full tone. Kitzenko's Tchaikovsky (the Fourth Symphony) is in the tour repertoire; it is lean, classical, with fast speeds.

Maybe it's a survival tactic: when you've played Tchaikovsky as often as he did in Moscow, you simply can't treat each symphony as if it were late Beethoven."

The refreshingly uncynical enthusiasm of the Bergen players spins off into a variety of extra-curricular activities: chamber groups, ad hoc café ensembles and 20th-century ensembles flourish. However, the orchestra's subsidy apparently does not yet allow for the commissioning of new music. But the British tour will include something written since Grieg. Harald Saeverud, the 92-year-old grand old man of Norwegian music, is still valuable about his short, chamber-orchestral *Ballad of Revolt* which will act as curtain-raiser. It was written in 1943, during the German occupation, and its angular, abrasively orchestrated theme is almost a second national anthem. "Yes, yes. They are still hammering my theme into the mountains..."

• The Bergen Philharmonic now begins in Middlesbrough tomorrow, and continues to Inverness, Newcastle, Eastbourne, Huddersfield, Leeds and Northampton, with the Barbican, London, next Thursday.

## Enigmatic



Lady Helen Windsor in the April

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**10.00** **News** 10.05 **Playdays**. Children's series, this morning coming from Cornwall 10.25 **The Family News**. Cartoon adventures of the Loch creature 10.35 **She's the Sheriff**. American sitcom (r)  
**11.00** **News** and weather 11.05 **People Today**. A look at the lives of people across the UK. Includes **Open Line**  
**12.00** **News** and weather 12.05 **Robert Kelly-Silk's Diet and Fitness Club**. Keep fit 12.25 **Scene Today**. Live entertainment from Peckham 12.55 **Regional news** and weather  
**1.00** **One O'Clock News** and weather  
**1.30** **Neighbours**. (Contest)  
**1.50** **Cheltenham Festival**. Julian Wilson introduces live coverage of the Daily Express Triumph hurdle (2.15). The Christie's Foodhunter chase (2.30). and the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup (3.30). The 4.05 race is covered on BBC2  
**2.50** **Dooby's Duck Truck**. Cartoon series 3.55 **Gordon the Gopher**. This week the hand puppet and its sidekick Philip Schofield send up *Heinz* 4.05 **Jimbo** and the Jet Set. Animated aeronautical adventures 4.10 **Jackpot**. Tim Minchin reads *Right Royal* 4.15 **Cartoon**. A short story by Robert Leeson 4.30 **Fantastic Max**. Cartoon about a superhero toddler 4.35 **Dizzy Heights**. Children's puppet comedy set in a hotel (r)  
**5.00** **News** and weather 5.05 **Blue Peter** with Yvette Fielding, John Leslie and Diane-Louise Jordan. (Contest)  
**5.35** **Neighbours** (r). (Contest) Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 **Inside Ulster**  
**6.00** **Six O'Clock News** with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather 6.30 **Regional News Magazine**. Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.00 **Top of the Pops** introduced by Simon Mayo (simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1)  
**7.30** **EastEnders**. More domestic strife from the residents of Albert Square. (Contest)  
**8.00** **Tomorrow's World**. The general Bob Symes looks at the latest inventions with marketable potential, including paper bricks and a steam-powered car. Plus a NASA report that shows how potted plants can purify the air and protect buildings. With Judith Hann, Howard Stern and Peter Maclean  
**8.30** **Doctor at the Top**. The Kindred Cuts. Week medical advice with Robin Newell and George Layton, catching up with the characters of the Seventeen comedy *Doctors on the Go*. In this episode, written by Bill Oddie, Duncan and Paul both decide to have vasectomies, but are jittery about the operation, especially as their old friend Dick will be wielding the scalpel. (Contest) Northern Ireland: Sportswide  
**9.00** **Nine O'Clock News** with Martin Lewis. (Contest) Regional news and weather  
**9.30** **Crimewatch UK**. Sue Cook and Nick Rose invite viewers to help solve serious crimes. Tonight's reconstructed cases include the murder of Stephen Johnson from Stock-on-Town and Manchester prostitute Maria Requia, who appeared in a BBC documentary about the dangers of street life only weeks before she was killed (Contest)  
**10.15** **Question Time** presided over by Peter Sissons. The guests include barrister and broadcaster Helena Kennedy, Lady Olga Metford and the shadow employment spokesman, Tony Blair, MP



The assassins Helena Kennedy and Tony Blair, MP (10.15pm)

**11.15** **World Figure Skating Championships**. Barry Davies introduces the men's free programme and the original dance from Munich. The commentators are Alan Weiss and Christopher Dean  
**12.05** **Crimewatch UK Update**  
**12.55** **Cheltenham Festival**. Julian Wilson introduces highlights of the first day of the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival, featuring the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup  
**1.00** **Weather**

**6.45** **Open University: The Physics of Matter** 7.10 **Physical Chemistry**  
**8.00** **News** 8.15 **Weather**  
**8.50** **Daytime on Two**. Educational programmes  
**9.00** **News** and weather followed by *You and Me* (r) 2.15 **Antiques Roadshow** from Stafford (r). (Contest)  
**3.00** **News** and weather followed by *Westminster Live* 3.45 **News**, regional news and weather  
**3.55** **Cheltenham Festival**. The Fitz Club National Hunt chase (4.05)  
**4.20** **Miniature Worlds**. As autumn heralds decay for many trees and plants, three tree stumps are abundant with life in the form of mosses, fungi and stump-dwelling animals (r)  
**4.30** **Fighters Talk**. Bob Scott, the entrepreneur behind Manchester's unsuccessful bid to host the 1990 Olympic Games, blames London and the southeast for its lack of support  
**5.00** **News** headlines followed by *Film 91* with Barry Norman (r)  
**5.30** **The Vet**. The second in the repeated series following a year in the life of Scottish vet George Raftery (r)  
**6.00** **Film: Tazewell and the Green River** (1987). Mike Henry assumes the role of a man who is transported from Africa to South America, where an evil tribe chieftain has revived the ancient cult of the leopard man. Directed by Robert Day. Wales: Film: East of Sarnia 7.20-7.30 **City Lights**  
**7.30** **First Sight: Starnet** - Take-off or Let-down? Tomorrow the Queen officially opens London's third international airport at Stansted. Jack Pizzey charts the airport's history from US air force base to 5400 million airport. Northern Ireland: The British Empire, Wales: 7.50-8.30 **Starnet**. England: Midlands - Midlands Report; North, Northeast and Northwest: Close Up North; South: Southern Eye; Southwest: Western Approach; West: Current Account  
**8.00** **City Lights**. Scandal. Comedy starring Gerald Kelly as the Scottish bank clerk, Willie Melvin, aspiring to literary stardom and the affections of Fiona, the manager's daughter. (Contest)  
**8.30** **Top Gear**. William Westwood introduces the motor show from the first RAC Historic Rally  
**9.00** **Red Dwarf IV**. Sci-fi sitcom with Craig Charles and Chris Barrie as space misfits who stumble into an almost identical parallel universe when they exceed the speed of reality. (Contest)  
**9.30** **40 Minutes or Less**. British Carriers  
**9.40** **CHOICE: Peter Dinklage**. A warning of what can happen to very gifted children in an educational system which seems ill-equipped to deal with them. Weaving his narrative around half a dozen case histories, Dinklage tells his saddest story from Nick Hawksworth. At 12 Hawksworth was assessed as exceptionally clever and among the top 1 per cent in the country. But he was bored at school and failed to achieve his potential. He joined the Royal Marines but left before his time and after 25 jobs now drives a delivery van. Christopher Alcock, who is nine but has the brains of a 15-year-old, was taken out of his school and is being taught at home by his mother. But with the right encouragement, the early promise can be fulfilled. Anna Mardland was a gifted pianist at six and 12 years later, with the help of her father and dedicated teachers, won the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition. (Contest)  
**10.10** **Biocycle: The Business**. The *Biocycle* series has made a valiant attempt to squeeze quanta into pint pots but trying to explain the world cycle industry in a mere 20 minutes is a bigger challenge than any faced to date. In essence, however, the story is clear enough, telling how the bicycle makers of the United States and Europe have been forced to relinquish their former dominance to the more efficient industries of the east. Japan, Taiwan and China are the new bicycle giants, with China turning out 40 million machines a year. But the west is striking back. The proud name of Raleigh has been revived under an international holding company. Peugeot is on the rise again and the American Schwinn company had sensibly moved production to low-cost areas such as Hungary and China. (Contest)  
**10.30** **Newsnight** with Peter Snow  
**11.15** **The Late Show**. Includes an item on Canary Wharf and music from rock band REM 11.55 **Weather**  
**12.00** **Weekend Outlook**. A preview of Open University programmes  
**12.05** **Open University: Technology** - European Ends at 12.35



A precocious talent who through: Anna Mardland (9.30pm)

**6.00** **TV-am**  
**6.25** **Lucky Ladders** presented by Lennie Bennett 6.55 **Thames News** and weather  
**10.00** **The Time ... The Place**. John Stapleton chairs a discussion on a topical subject  
**10.40** **This Morning** Family magazine series  
**12.05** **The Riddlers**. For young children 12.25 **Thames News** and weather  
**12.30** **News** with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather  
**1.30** **Home and Away**. Drama about an Australian couple and their foster children 1.50 **A Country Practice**. Australian soap set in a rural health centre  
**2.20** **TV Weekly**. Anne Diamond and Barry Took take a look behind the scenes of favourite ITV programmes 2.50 **Jumble**. Another round of the crossword game show hosted by Jeff Stevenson  
**3.15** **News** headlines 3.20 **Thames News** headlines 3.25 **The Young Doctors**  
**3.55** **One**. Includes a report from down under on dingos, plus a look at the meadow and one of the largest collections of horses in Britain 4.20 **Warner Brothers Cartoon** 4.30 **Spetz**. Children's drama set in a fast food restaurant  
**5.00** **Blockbusters**. Bob Harrison hosts the general knowledge quiz for teenagers  
**5.30** **News** with Fiona Armstrong (Oracle) Weather  
**5.55** **Find a Family**. Bruce Welch introduces David to the public  
**6.00** **Home and Away** (r)  
**6.30** **Thames News** and weather  
**7.00** **Emmerdale**. Agricultural soap set in the Yorkshire Dales (Oracle)  
**7.30** **Jimmy's**. Fly-on-the-wall look at the work of the staff and the problems of patients at St James's Hospital in Leeds



Building a murder investigation: Carolyn Pickles (8.00pm)

**8.00** **The Bill**. Jack Desautels. Includes new and order drama set in a frantic suburban police station. A fatal fall on a building site seems to be no more than a tragic accident. But DCI Reed (Carolyn Pickles), a new character who has yet to make his mark on the series, digs deeper and starts a murder investigation (Oracle)  
**8.30** **The Week**. Revolution in the Rain? Can President Gorbachev rely on the loyalty of his troops if he chooses to use them in his struggle to hold the Soviet Union together?  
**8.50** **The Book of the Dead**. Holmes. The Boscombe Valley mystery. Baker Street's famous sleuth, superbly played by Jeremy Brett, receives a telegram from a young woman about the murder of a farmer. The dead man's son, James, has been charged with the crime and the local police see it as an open and shut case. But for Alice Turner, the sender of the telegram, the matter is not a murder but a mystery. Another polished entry to Granada Television's long-running Holmes series, with the usual pleasures of landscape and period reconstruction and a script, by the reliable John Hawkesworth, that respects the original story and resists the temptation to send it up. With Edward Hardwicke as Dr Watson  
**10.00** **News** at Ten with Trevor McDonald and Julia Somerville. (Oracle)  
**10.40** **The City Programme**. An overview of the content of Norman Lamont's first budget on Tuesday  
**11.00** **01**. Dr Minam Stoppard reviews *Awakenings*, there is music by George Michael and three bands - Galliano, Incognito and Young Disciples  
**11.40** **Prisoner**. Cell Block H. Australian soap set in a women's remand centre  
**12.00** **Connections**. Trevor Ward and Suzy Smith present the television version of the personal column  
**1.00** **Hand of a Stranger**. First part of an American drama about ambitious cop Joe Helm, who puts his marriage and his career under threat when he becomes obsessed with uncovering the truth about his wife's rape. Starring Amanda Assante, Blair Brown and Beverly D'Angelo (r)  
**3.00** **Headlock**. Cop drama series  
**4.00** **Three's Company**. American comedy series  
**4.30** **The Top Ten** (r)  
**5.00** **Visionquest**. The importance of ecosystems (r)  
**5.30** **ITV Morning News** with Anne Laurence. Ends at 6.00

**6.00** **The Art of Landscape**. Soothing scenes backed by relaxing music  
**6.20** **Business Daily**  
**6.30** **The Channel Four Daily**  
**6.55** **Schools**  
**12.00** **News Summary**  
**12.05** **The Parliament Programme** presented by Sue Cameron  
**12.30** **Business Daily**. Financial and business news service  
**1.00** **Sesame Street**. Educational entertainment for pre-school children  
**2.00** **The Ancient Art of Cookery**. Roy Strong and Sara Paston-Williams discover the impact that the cast-iron stove had on cookery when they visit Saltram House near Plymouth (r) (Teletext)  
**2.30** **Cutting Edge**. Eton - Glass of '91. Another showing for the first programme in 25 years to go to the gates of Britain's most famous public school (r)  
**3.30** **Land of Hope**. The last episode of the Australian drama series that follows the fortunes of four generations of an Anglo-Irish family (r)  
**4.30** **Countdown**. Words and numbers game  
**4.50** **The Adventures of Tintin**. Episode one of *Shooting Star* (r)  
**5.05** **The Oprah Winfrey Show**. Oprah talks to people who discovered that they had not been raised by their mother  
**6.00** **Kate & Allie**. Comedy with the two divorces and their children who share a Greenwich Village home. Starring Susan Saint James and Jane Curtin (r)  
**6.30** **Beethoven's**. Wedding comedy set in a south London barber's shop. When Beverly (Joan Armatage) is mugged by Shirley (Carmen Munroe) because it is time for self-defence lessons. Husband Desmond (Norman Beaton) is unenthusiastic (r)  
**7.00** **Channel Four News** with Jon Snow and Zina Badawi (Teletext)  
**8.00** **Shipshape Earth**. Documentary series that uses satellite technology to give a space-age view of the Earth. The programme shows how all the planet's continents are linked by shipping routes and asks if the Earth can support its growing population  
**8.30** **The Orchid House**. CHOICE: If Chekhov had not taken the train first, this would surely have been called the three sisters. One by one the daughters of the troubled white Caribbean family have returned to their Dominican home, determined to save their lush and km from ruin in tonight's concluding episode. It is the turn of rich spoiled Natalie, played to the hilt by Elizabeth Hurley (who has been twice sent to prison taking the lead in *Dennis Potter's* *Crackers*). Tonight too, the political stranglehold, as does Michael Byrne a priest. But this has been a languid, decorative piece, seemingly afflicted by the same feeling of inertia and helplessness that has overtaken the main characters. Mood has been stronger than narrative and despite good performances (notably by Frances Barber and Kate Mulgrew as the other sisters) *The Orchid House* probably has been most remembered for its handsome photography and exotic locations. (Teletext)  
**9.35** **Affairs of the Heart**. Continuing the series that looks at heart disease in Britain, where every three minutes there is a death from a heart attack. The death rate due to heart attacks in Britain is 1 in 100, the highest in the world. The programme explains how the community has worked together to achieve this striking result



A wife of crime: Minneapolis's Anthony Bouza (10.30pm)

**10.30** **True Stories: Police Chiefs**. CHOICE: Alan and Susan Raymond are an American documentary team who have made a special study of police work. Their earlier film, *The Police Tapes*, was the inspiration for *Hill Street Blues*. In *Police Chiefs* they look at the work of three forces and the men who lead them. David Gates is the head of the Los Angeles Police, tough, aggressive and convinced that there is no line between crime and poverty. The other two are relatively liberal. Anthony Bouza of the Minneapolis force says that while not all poor people are criminals, all street criminals are poor. Lee Brown, first black chief of the Houston police, reckons that a national policy of full employment would do more to reduce crime than any other single act. All three come across as skilled professionals, but Bouza's task cannot be helped by a wife who takes part in anti-war protests and is frequently arrested by her husband's officers  
**11.45** **A Week in Politics**. Includes an interview with Sir Leon Brittan about the future direction of Britain's European policy. Ends at 11.55pm

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# BUSINESS

THURSDAY MARCH 14 1991

Business Editor  
John Bell

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## Pirelli's bid faces failure

THE dispute among shareholders in Continental, the German tyre company, over the DM2 billion reverse takeover bid by Pirelli, its Italian rival, and a change in the group's articles of association is set to develop into a legal battle (Wolfgang Münchau writes from Hanover).

An extraordinary meeting of shareholders in Hanover was last night expected to cast a vote on the merger proposal and the overturning of a restriction that limits voting rights to 5 per cent per share.

While the merger proposal is likely to be rejected, Pirelli has pinned its hopes on the issue of the overturning of the voting rights.

One shareholder, Henning von Wedel, a lawyer, said he will make a legal challenge against a decision to overturn the restrictions on the grounds that smaller shareholders needed the limits to prevent a predator succeeding in making a takeover without having to make a bid.

Horst Urban, Continental's chief executive, defended the company's decision to refuse a merger with Pirelli, saying that the merged group would be unable to pay dividends "for years".

## Air fares cut

American Airlines, one of the largest carriers in America, which starts direct flights into Heathrow this summer, yesterday launched its biggest cut-price fare promotion in the carrier's history. The return New York-London fare will drop to \$498 from April 8.

BA's cloud, page 27

## Hilldown level

A sharp drop in profits at its non-food businesses limited Hilldown Holdings to a 1 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £191 million last year. The dividend by 11 per cent to 60p.

Tempos, page 27

## Enterprise up

After-tax profits at Enterprise rose 35 per cent to £157 million last year from pre-tax profits up 41 per cent to £210 million. The dividend rises 5.4 per cent to 15p.

Tempos, page 27

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Tempos, page 27

## Surprise help for deficit from invisibles

By ANATOLE KALETSKY AND SUSAN ELLICOTT

BRITAIN'S current account deficit was much smaller last year than originally estimated.

The Central Statistics Office's announcement surprised City analysts and led some to speculate that Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, would produce a bullish forecast of the country's trade performance in next week's Budget.

The CSO's spectacular revision showed a surplus of £2.1 billion on Britain's invisible trade in the fourth quarter, compared with the earlier estimate of zero. As a result, the current account deficit for the fourth quarter was reduced from £3 billion to £843 million and the deficit for the whole of 1990 fell from £16 billion to £12.8 billion.

The fourth quarter surplus in Britain's invisible trade was easily the highest ever and attracted scepticism among analysts, but if this performance were confirmed and sustained into this year, it would top £700 million from Britain's monthly trade deficit, which was running at £1.2 billion in January. As a result, Mr Lamont would be able to project a 1991 trade performance far better than the £11 billion deficit he forecast in the autumn statement last November. This would take some of the sting out of criticisms over valuation in the exchange-rate mechanism and might reassure the markets that the exchange rate was sustainable in the long term.

Official explanation for the change by government statisticians resulted from what was described as late-landing data for the October-December quarter of the year, covering a jump in earnings on overseas investments.

The biggest elements in the revision concerned the net interest profits and dividends earned on Britain's overseas investments. The CSO originally believed that these would show a substantial fall between the first and second halves of last year. Instead, the credits on the IPD account in the third quarter were revised upwards from £19.9 billion to £20.6 billion and estimated at £21.9 billion in the fourth quarter. IPD debits in the fourth quarter were estimated at £19.6 billion.

When British interest rates are significantly higher than rates elsewhere, Britain pays more to foreign investors than it takes in from similar investments overseas.

Since 1981, Britain has taken in more money in the form of interest, profits and dividends than it has paid out, but in the past few years that surplus narrowed as interest rates rose.

Sentiment for the pound improved after the revision. The pound closed at DM2.9276, compared with Tuesday's DM2.9203 close. A rise of half a cent against the dollar was eventually replaced by a fall from \$1.8575 to \$1.8555. The effective exchange rate index rose 0.1 to close at 93.3.

A bigger influence on foreign exchanges yesterday was the first increase since last autumn in American retail sales. The index, initially slightly up after persistent selling of dollars by central banks on Monday and Tuesday, finally dropped from \$1.5710 to \$1.5785 as attempts to hold down the dollar failed.

The larger than expected 0.8 per cent rise, helped by stronger car sales, could be an early sign that consumer confidence was improving in the final stages of the Gulf war.

The increase in retail purchases, which account for about half of overall consumer spending, followed a revised 1.4 per cent drop in January and one of the weakest Christmas shopping seasons in years for big stores. February's figure was the first rise since a negligible 0.1 per cent increase last October.

Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, told Congress that the economy was "less fragile" than it was six months ago, although he was concerned about "balance sheet pressures" in the financial sector. Only last week, the central bank cut the Fed funds rate by a quarter-point to 6 per cent in the latest of several moves over the past few months to encourage banks to lend more to credit-worthy customers.

Consumer spending was the engine of America's eight-year economic expansion during the Eighties and is watched as the key to a recovery from the current recession.

Comment, page 27

## Rebuilding Kuwait 'to cost less than forecast'

By ROSS TIEMAN AND NEIL BENNETT

THE cost of rebuilding Kuwait will be considerably less than expected, according to a banker just back from the war-ravaged city.

British construction companies had hoped for huge contracts as part of a reconstruction programme expected to cost £50 billion or more during the coming decade.

But David Douglas-Horne, a director of Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, and chairman of the Committee for Middle East Trade (Comet) of the British Overseas Trade Board, said yesterday that much of the city's building and infrastructure appeared to be structurally sound. Meanwhile, the leaders of the Kuwaiti banking industry have returned to the kingdom in a fleet of jets chartered for the journey. Banks in Kuwait hope to re-open with a limited service as early as next week.

The journey coincided with a move by the Bank of England to lift the Treasury's restrictions on the international transfer of Kuwaiti assets, imposed on August 2 after the Iraqi invasion. The freeze on Iraqi assets remains in force.

The bankers took new computer systems with them to start rebuilding their records. Mr Douglas-Horne himself returned to Britain on Tuesday after spending 30 hours in Kuwait with a business delegation of six. Their account, gleaned from meetings with Kuwaiti ministers and officials and first-hand examination, provides the most authoritative assessment yet of the state of the city.

The party concluded that the main opportunities for British business would lie in refurbishing and re-equipping buildings stripped bare by the Iraqis. Everything in the shops had been "either destroyed, or removed, or vandalised", said Mr Douglas-Horne.

Alan Cockshaw, chairman of the construction group AMEC, spoke of the "unbelievable mess" made by the departing Iraqis. But he added: "The basic infrastructure of the city of Kuwait is largely undamaged."

Construction opportunities would also be limited by the determination of the Kuwaitis to rebuild their city for a smaller population. Only a third to a quarter of the original population of two million remains.

Mr Douglas-Horne said Kuwait urgently needed basic food and a more sophisticated food distribution system. Thereafter every kind of appliance and comfort found in a modern country would be needed.

Comet will be working with the trade department to establish large stocks of British-made goods in nearby states like Dubai.

## Oil climbs above \$20 after curb on output

By MARTIN BARROW

THE price of oil rose beyond \$20 a barrel, in another day of strong trading in the wake of an agreement by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to curb production.

In London, the benchmark Brent crude for delivery in April rose \$1.02 to \$20.05 a barrel.

Since Opec agreed on Tuesday to reduce output by 5 per cent as a first step towards pushing the price of oil back up to \$21 a barrel, it has risen almost \$2. American oil futures rose 63 cents to \$20.30, supported by figures from the American Petroleum Institute showing a larger-than-expected drawdown of 6 million barrels in crude inventories in the week ending last Friday.

Stronger oil prices have caught many traders off guard and some of the increase can be attributed to short-covering by traders who sold oil last week expecting the Opec meeting to end without a deal.

## Business sees the green light

By ROSS TIEMAN  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY O'Reilly, the chairman of Heinz, was persuaded that green tuna was good for his business while lunching with Jerry Moss, head of A&M Records.

Mr Moss had seen a stomach-churning film, secretly recorded, of dying dolphins trapped in the nets of tuna fishermen. What the two men ate that day is not recorded, but by the time the coffee came, Mr Moss had persuaded his companion that public concern over the accidental slaughter was a threat to his business and an opportunity on which it could capitalise.

Thus it was, says an *Economist* survey, that Heinz became the first American company to market "dolphin free" tuna: a move that has been copied worldwide. Although tuna sales and prices have scarcely changed since, the decision won Heinz much favourable publicity. The move was, says the *Economist* report *The Greening of Global Investment*, one of the most positive responses to the growing pressures on business to clean up its act.

"Socially responsible" investment funds in America now control almost \$500 billion of assets. Britain's ethical investment funds may field only £241 million of assets, but their size is growing at twice the industry rate. They are just the thin end of the wedge. Clive Gilchrist, chairman of the National Association of Pension Funds, said: "Socially responsible investment is one of those motherhood and democracy issues: how can anyone possibly be against it?"

Bad publicity on the environment can make a company suffer. Although extracting peat for garden fertiliser provides only 5 per cent of Fisons' profits, the group's activities in this area attracted the opprobrium of the Prince of Wales. Who now would want a Union Carbide plant on their doorstep, or an Exxon tanker docking beside their holiday beach?

Environmental accidents impose a huge direct cost on companies and hinder their activities long afterwards. BTR, the industrial group, tried to take over Pilkington, the glass maker, in 1988 and Norton, the American abrasives group, in 1989. Both bids failed. Both targets attacked BTR's social record in their defence.

As the decade progresses, shareholders may join consumers and legislators in compelling companies to respond to social and environmental concerns, the report concludes. "This profound development heralds the age of the social balance sheet. In response to the new agenda, the task of measuring social good, once the preserve of philosophers, will need to be addressed by corporate strategists, shareholders and investment managers alike."



New face of BTR: Alan Jackson, chief executive, who promised changes yesterday

## BTR slips below £1bn

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

BTR has announced its first profits decline since 1966 and has promised acquisitions in the early Nineties.

Pre-tax profits fell 8.6 per cent to £966 million last year, suspending the group from the exclusive £1 billion profit club, after sales dipped 2.3 per cent to £6.74 billion.

Sir Owen Green, the chairman, said, however, that the weakening of the American and Australian dollars, trimmed £48 million off the pre-tax total. Chris Bull, the finance director, said the group "never covers forward. We're not speculators."

Earnings relapsed from 35.2p to 31.8p a share, but shareholders are treated to an 8.75p final dividend, giving them a 15.75p (15p) total for the year.

Sir Owen said most of the group's geographical and business areas felt the effects of the recession. The workforce was reduced by 7,500, or 7 per cent, during the year.

He added that the opening weeks of this financial year indicated improvements in Europe, the Far East and America. However, these continued to be outweighed by the effects of recession elsewhere.

Alan Jackson, who took over as chief executive from John Cahill at the beginning of the current year, promised "a different BTR" this decade. Responding to criticism that BTR had lost its touch on acquisitions, he said: "I believe our strike rate remains the envy of the world."

He added that the market would be right for an acquisition soon. "We have not identified an opportunity yet, but we're looking at Europe, and particularly at the UK."

Pilkington, which fought off a bid from BTR in the Eighties, and Hawker Siddeley are tipped by BTR followers as possible bid targets.

Mr Jackson said the group would fund its acquisition programme through the sale of existing businesses and the raising of new equity, although it may use debt initially "so that we can act quickly". BTR was, he added, "good at buying businesses cheap and improving them."

The group also remains good at financial management. Last year, despite spending £420 million on plant, it reduced its trade working capital by £88 million, and cut its net debt by £163 million, trimming its gearing from 48 to 41 per cent.

Comment, page 27

## ILG's tour firms will close

By ANGELA MACKAY

ADMINISTRATORS to International Leisure Group failed to find a buyer for its tour operations by the Civil Aviation Authority's deadline of yesterday afternoon. They consequently dismissed 1,550 staff and said the tour companies would be liquidated.

KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, the administrator appointed to ILG last Friday, had been trying to sell the tours division, which includes Intasun and Club 18-30, before its tour operator's licence expired at 4pm. Tim Hayward, one of the administrators, said they would still try to sell the brand names.

"As far as the tour operation as a whole is concerned, we have come to the end of the road, although we have had offers for the brand names. Unfortunately the insolvency of the group, the calling of the Tour Operators Study Group's £65 million bond and the consequent withdrawal of the company's holidays from retailers damaged the business to the extent to which it was not possible to sell the tour group as a whole," he said.

Mr Hayward added that the CAA had extended the licence of Air Europe, the airline that is ILG's other main business, until Tuesday afternoon when the administrators will meet the authorities.

If there is no buyer, then Air Europe is also likely to be liquidated and its 2,300 staff dismissed. If Air Europe is closed, airports and regulatory bodies have the right to first call on assets.

Mr Hayward said he had not received any serious offers but there had been several expressions of interest in the airline. Companies such as British Midland, Dan-Air and Owners Abroad are believed to be interested in parts of Air Europe.

An announcement of the sale of Quest Leisure Group, the school holidays specialist, is however expected within a few days, Mr Hayward said.

Despite the removal of more than 20 per cent of Britain's package holidays, many tour operators are reluctant to raise their capacity to match the shortfall, preferring to ensure they make good profits by only just matching the likely demand.

Omni exposure, page 26

## T&N cuts 2,400 from workforce

By COLIN CAMPBELL

T&N, the automotive and engineering group, will shortly complete its 14-month programme of cutting 2,400 jobs from its 42,000 workforce, the majority of them in Britain. The company said more job losses are likely.

Colin Hope, the chairman, said the measures reflected cost-cutting exercises and efforts to improve efficiency. T&N provided £14 million against its 1990 profits to cover the redundancy costs and said the number of additional jobs that would depend on markets. Customer demand is erratic and uncertain, the chairman said.

Pre-tax profits in 1990 fell from £84 million to £70.5 million. A maintained final dividend of 7.25p makes 10.85p (10.75p) for the year.

Tempos, page 27

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## Simon issues warning as profits edge forward 3%

By JONATHAN PRYNN

SIMON Engineering's pre-tax profits rose only 3 per cent last year, and the group has given warning that "significant improvements" are unlikely in the current year.

The engineering, environmental and industrial services group unveiled pre-tax profits of £39.8 million (£38.6 million) for the year, a 6 per cent improvement.

Turnover fell 18 per cent to £545.7 million. Earnings per share were also down, falling 9 per cent to 33.4p on an equity base enlarged 25 per cent by last year's £46.4 million rights issue.

The cash call has had the effect of halving Simon's gearing to 13 per cent and increasing interest cover to 19 times. Of the funds raised, £35 million was spent on acquisitions. The rest of the money is expected to be spent soon.

Of the four divisions comprising the recently restructured group, the environmental businesses proved the most resilient against the recession. The environmental division raised pre-tax profits 63 per cent to £4.9 million and widened net margins from 4.9 per cent to 6.8 per cent.

Brian Kemp, the chief executive, said legislative regula-

tion and enforcement protected the division from the effects of recession.

The industrial services division also reported a profits increase, but the process engineering and access divisions saw profits decline. Operating margins for the group as a whole increased from 6.5 per cent to 7.7 per cent.

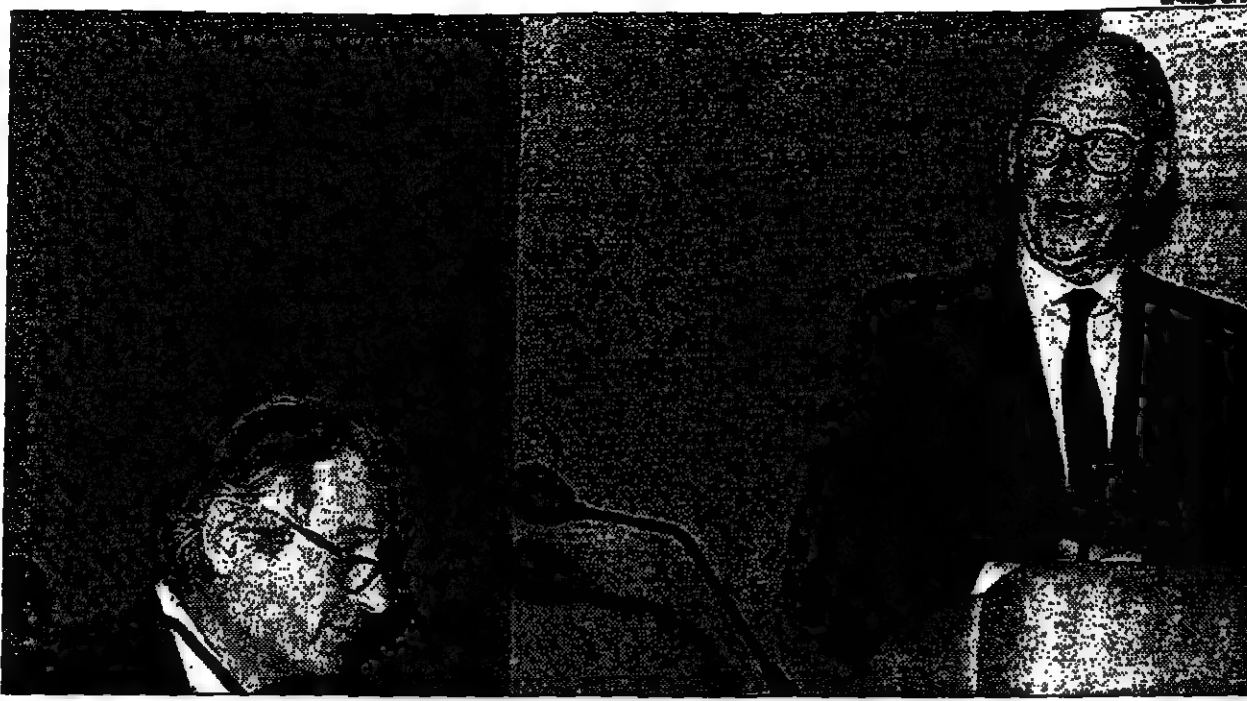
Roy Rogers, the chairman, said the rebuilding of Kuwait was offering opportunities to companies across all divisions of the group. Simon is involved in work to contain the Gulf oil slick. Mr Rogers said he could not yet quantify the amount of business that might be involved.

A £2 million redundancy cost relating to 600 job losses was taken above the line. The overall head count remained virtually unchanged at 7,500.

Mr Rogers sounded a note of caution on the prospects for this year despite some indications that the worst of the recession may be over. He said: "At this stage, it appears unlikely that 1991 will show significant improvements over 1990."

However, he added: "We are well placed to benefit from any upturn with our sharply focused businesses and strong management."

The shares rose 32p to 383p.



Point of view: Sir David Wolfson listens as Geoffrey Maitland Smith addresses the Next meeting yesterday

## Sears' actions 'affected decision'

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

SIR David Wolfson, chairman of Next, told shareholders that Sears' behaviour during early negotiations on the sale of Grattan, Next's mail order business, was an important factor in the decision to recommend Otto-Versand's £151 million offer over Sears' £155 million offer.

Sir David told the extraordinary meeting yesterday that Next would spend about £50 million with Grattan in the next four years on services for the Next Directory. Otto, he said, would have the capacity, expertise and goodwill to give Next the best possible service.

Geoffrey Maitland Smith, Sears chairman, told the meeting, which was later adjourned, that Sears had made the highest cash offer. "Nothing Sears has heard leads us to

believe that Otto-Versand can offer Next any better relationship than Sears."

"Sears is able to service fully all the requirements of Next and the Next Directory as well if not better than Otto."

A meeting to approve Otto's offer will be held on March 22. If the offer is not approved

then, another meeting will be held on March 26 to approve Sears' offer.

Of 90 million proxy votes received, 50 million are believed to have approved Otto's offer with 40 million against.

## Unigate forecasts £30m fall

By MARTIN BARROW

UNIGATE, the food and transport group, has given a warning that profits for the year to the end of this month will not exceed £75 million before tax, a figure well below market expectations.

This compares with profits of £105.5 million in the previous 12 months and with market forecasts of between

£85 million and £90 million. However, the company has promised to maintain the final dividend at 9.6p, which would leave the total payment unchanged at 15.3p. The shares initially fell 22p to 302p but recovered to 307p.

The shortfall was attributed to difficult trading conditions within Unigate's non-food op-

erations, mainly vehicle distribution and leasing, and in poultry, which has been affected by market oversupply and depressed prices in the final three months of the year.

The company also gave a warning of unspecified provisions to cover future losses on the disposal of used vehicles. Unigate also announced the resignation of Andrew Dore as managing director of the UK food division.

Mr Dore is believed to have been an unsuccessful applicant for the post of chief executive last year. The job went instead to Ross Buckland, head of Kellogg's European operations, and his departure was not unexpected. Mr Dore's compensation is being discussed.

Charles Lawrence, the managing director of Winchester Distribution Services, and Gordon Summerfield, the managing director of Unigate Dairies, have been appointed to the main board of Unigate group.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Logitek gives warning on full-year profits

LOGITEK, the computer services group, has issued a warning that difficult trading conditions, provisions for obsolete stock and high interest rates will have a "significant effect" on current-year profits to end-March. The warning came with news that the group will sell its Asian subsidiary to its management for about £4.3 million.

Logitek, which is in takeover talks with another computer group, Microvitec, axed its interim dividend in January after revealing a slump in pre-tax profits to £145,000 (£1.31 million) for the six months to September. The purchaser of Azim, a distributor in the personal computer dealer network, will also repay inter-company debt of about £300,000 and assume Azim's net external borrowings, which amounted to about £2 million at end-February. This will reduce Logitek's own debt by about £6.4 million.

### EMC to buy US film firm

EMC, the media and business services group, is to acquire Novo Communications, an American film storage and distribution company, for an initial consideration of \$14 million. The deal is being partly financed by a placing and open offer of new convertible and redeemable preference shares to raise £4.3 million. Shares were suspended at 75p before the announcement.

### Micklegate dives £1.2m

INTERIM pre-tax profits at Micklegate Group, the USM-quoted property developer, fell to £22,000 (£1.31 million) to end-October. Turnover was £2.22 million (£4.66 million). Earnings per share collapsed to 0.07p (£5.24p). Again, there is no interim dividend. The company said the commercial property sector had declined to an unprecedented low level.

### Lloyds Chemists up

LLOYDS Chemists, the second biggest pharmacy chain in Britain after Boots, made pre-tax interim profits of £8.22 million, up 61 per cent, to end-December. Shares jumped 16p to 276p. Sales rose 26 per cent to £12.5 million and earnings per share increased by 50 per cent to 10.37p. The interim dividend is up 50 per cent to 1.17p. The interest charge rose 63 per cent to £1.76 million.

Increased profits derived from improved margins helped by higher "own label" sales. Barley Chemists was acquired last month for £5.6 million, taking the chain to 628 outlets.

### TMI shares suspended

SHARES in Third Mile Investment were suspended at 40p ahead of news that it has entered into agreement with a group of investors who plan to acquire certain assets in exchange for new TMI ordinary shares. This will result in the investors acquiring control of TMI. Two of them, Lord Renshaw and R. T. Sperry, plan to subscribe for 8 million TMI ordinary shares.

### Anglia TV sheds jobs

ANGLIA Television has become the latest ITV company to announce redundancies in the lead up to the Channel 3 franchise round. It is to shed 95 employees in the next two years and privatise its news and catering services, which employ another 31. David McCall, the chief executive, said the redundancies are part of long-term plans to reduce costs.

### Bristol to buy homes

BRISTOL & West Building Society intends to launch a business expansion scheme this month to buy some of the 440 houses it has repossessed and rent them to former owners. Tenants would have the right to buy the houses at a discount. The scheme is part of a £1.5 million expansion plan. In the year Bristol paid £25 million for Hampton Estate Agency and Guernsey Savings and Loan Corporation.

### Creditors owed £3m at Toothill

By JONATHAN PRYNN

ADMINISTRATIVE receivers have been appointed at RW Toothill, the County Durham upholstered furniture manufacturer formerly controlled by Adamas Industries, the failed Swedish group. Shares have been suspended at 500p.

The company, which has creditors of £3.2 million, said its trading position had deteriorated due to the recession and the Gulf war. Toothill has suffered from new furniture safety regulations and reported interim pre-tax losses of £381,000 (£39,000 profit) to end-September.

Toothill, which has 200 employees, changed its emphasis just before the recession from the high quality low volume market to the high volume market. Iain Davidson, joint managing director, said: "The company has a good core business in the low volume high quality market but the high volume work taken on during 1990 was at poor margins."

### Ansbacher dividend cut by 40%

By NEIL BENNETT

HENRY Ansbacher, the merchant bank, slumped to a loss of £2.64 million in the second half of last year after it wrote off a £4.7 million loan to Roger Levitt, the chairman of the collapsed financial services group, who has been charged with theft.

The loss, which pushed profits for the year down by 76 per cent to £2.46 million, has forced the bank to cut its dividend by 40 per cent to 1.5p. The bank had provided for substantially all of the loan but planned to take action to recover part. Profits were cut by other bad debt provisions and a £797,000 loss on an undisclosed investment.

However, attributable profits were boosted by a £6.67 million extraordinary profit after the bank redeemed its convertible unsecured loan stock below par value. The balance sheet was still strong.

### Swiss Bank 'may lose £19m on Omni loans'

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SWISS Bank Corporation, Switzerland's second largest bank, may lose up to \$650 million (£19.7 million) on its loans to Omni Holding, the Swiss holding company.

Georges Blum, a Swiss Bank director, announced the potential loss as the group revealed a 13 per cent fall in net profits to \$6820 million. The bank maintained its dividend at \$614 a share.

Mr Blum said the bank had cut its exposure to Omni last year. Omni was a big shareholder in ILG, the collapsed airline group, and has applied for court protection from its creditors.

Part of Swiss Bank's lending is guaranteed by Omni's 53

per cent stake in Adia, the employment agency, and Mr Blum said the bank's loss would be no more than \$650 million.

Swiss Bank for the first time announced consolidated accounts, which included figures from 80 majority-held subsidiaries. One of the largest is SBCI, the London securities offshoot.

The bank's profits were hit by the invasion of Kuwait, which caused Swiss interest rates to rise. The bank also suffered from the slump in world stock and securities markets. In 1989, commission fees accounted for almost a third of the bank's income, mainly from capital markets.

## COMPANY BRIEFS

SPANDEX (Ftn)  
Pre-tax: £4.3m (£4.81m)  
EPS: 24.4p (£4.8p)  
Div: 3.75p, mktg 5.5p

TRY GROUP (Ftn)  
Pre-tax: £1.80m (£4.37m)  
EPS: 6.2p (£11.5p)  
Div: 4p, mktg 6p

RPS GROUP (Ftn)  
Pre-tax: £1.74m (£1.72m)  
EPS: 9.48p (£9.38p)  
Div: 1.8p, mktg 3.2p

GENT (BFI) (Int)  
Pre-tax: £1.25m (£1.30m)  
EPS: 1.9p (£2.3p)  
Div: 1.25p (£1.25p)

NARBOROUGH PLANTS.  
Pre-tax: £148,000  
EPS: 1.10p (£1.51p)  
Div: 0.5p (£0.5p)

NORTH MIDLAND CONST.  
Pre-tax: £1.02m  
EPS: 6.5p (£5.2p)  
Div: 0.75p, mktg 1.25p

Turnover £41.8m (£37.4m). Total payout last time 5p. European expansion should more than compensate for less buoyant UK.

Housing land writedown meant £1.65m exceptional debit. Provision of £4.54m made on the closure of the property development division.

Total dividend last time was 2.8p. Turnover was £9.63m (£9.70m). Extraordinary debit of £48,000 (nil last year).

Turnover grew to £72.1m (£58.9m). Net interest costs rose to £1.75m (£1.1m). Vigorous analysis of overheads undertaken.

Interim results. Last time's pre-tax profit was £201,000. The interim dividend will be paid on June 22.

Final results. Last time's pre-tax profit, £215,000. Last time's total dividend, 1.0p. Group turnover increased to £24m (£22.1m).

## FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

| Vol '90           | Vol '90         | Vol '90          | Vol '90         |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Abbey Nat 1,798   | CU 1,278        | L&S 887          | Royal Ind 887   |
| Adia 1,394        | CU 1,181        | Lloyds 1,385     | Royal Ind 1,385 |
| Anglian 840       | Conoco 985      | Lornto 788       | Sainsbury 1,688 |
| ASDA 2,401        | Dalgety 588     | Lynco 645        | Scott & N 68    |
| AS Foods 882      | Enterprise 878  | M&S 4,487        | Sears 1,172     |
| Avon 882          | Euromat 1,178   | Mannett On 275   | Servon Tm 146   |
| BAA 4,264         | Fluoro 3,652    | EPG 588          | Shell 1,571     |
| BET 2,270         | Gen Acc 182     | Midland 5,882    | Smith & N 1,571 |
| BTR 10,008        | GECC 6,474      | Nat West 3,882   | SK Beach 1,385  |
| BAT 2,288         | Glaxo 4,728     | N W Water 2,534  | Sun Alcoa 2,448 |
| Barclays 3,888    | Grand Met 4,728 | P&O 1,153        | Yarrow 2,448    |
| BICC 1,253        | GUS A 212       | Pearson 291      | Tele Lys 1,582  |
| St. George 4,327  | GUL 1,197       | Philips 1,085    | TBS 2,388       |
| Blue Circle 1,387 | GN 1,475        | Prudential 5,512 | Tesco 2,388     |
| BOC 2,148         | Guinness 1,475  | Racal 2,129      | Thames W 1,448  |
| Boots 718         | H&M A 254       | RK Nole 1,230    | Thorn Etl 687   |
| Br Ann 2,087      | H&M 11,003      | Rank 642         | Traveler 1,918  |
| Br Airways 1,813  | H&M 1,238       | RAC 187          | TSP 1,918       |
| Br Gas 6,400      | H&M 488         | Redard 1,918     | Unilever 1,918  |
| Br Petrol 12,008  | H&M 6,483       | Reed 988         | Unilever 1,918  |
| Br Steel 6,246    | H&M 841         | Reusers 973      | Unilever 1,918  |
| Br Telecom 10,882 | H&M 1,058       | RSCG Op 88       | Unilever 1,918  |
| Burnley Co 725    | Lease 2,080     | RITZ 8,355       | Whitby 1,918    |
| CBW 1,798         | Land Sec 1,238  | Royce 2,304      | Wp Teape 778    |
|                   |                 | Rowlin 788       | Wp Teape 778    |

## As resilient as BTR



## 1990 Year End Results

|                     | 1990    | 1989    |
|---------------------|---------|---------|
| Sales               | £6,742m | £6,904m |
| Profit before tax   | £966m   | £1,057m |
| Earnings per share  | 31.8p   | 35.2p   |
| Dividends per share | 15.75p  | 15.00p  |

**BTR**

BTR plc, SILVERTOWN HOUSE, VINCENT SQUARE, LONDON SW1P 2PL. TELEPHONE: 071 834 3848

These results and comparisons include currencies translated into Sterling at the appropriate average rates for each year. 1989 has been restated from period end rates.



## BTR's new man lays out his plans

### COMMENT

Logically, if we continue the way we are, we will end up owning every company in the world, and they would all be out-performing. Thus BTR's John Cahill caricatures the group's strategy for the Nineties. Simply stated, this involves selling off the parts where the profit performance cannot be improved, and investing the proceeds in a new bunch of low-performing assets.

It all sounds pretty similar to the BTR strategy for the Eighties, and the Seventies for that matter. But Alan Jackson, the Australian who stepped into Cahill's shoes as chief executive ten weeks ago, evidently believes that the beginning of a new era demands a re-stating of group policy.

But there is also a hint of sensitivity to recent criticism of the group's acquisition policy. Mr Jackson argues quite reasonably that its failure to clinch a major takeover deal should be regarded as a strength rather than a weakness at a time when prices were grossly inflated by junk bond merchants.

BTR left little doubt in City minds yesterday that the next big

acquisition is not far off, and that it will quite likely focus on the UK, a hint that enticed dealings in the shares of Pilkington, which remains a prime candidate for a BTR bid. While it will be ultimately financed, partly by the sale of existing businesses, there was a clear message that the group will be raising new equity.

Mr Jackson looks as if he is injecting a fresh urgency into BTR, and it may not all be to do with the return to sanity in the marketplace following the demise of the junk bond, or with the less defensive postures adopted by recession-hit industries and governments. BTR needs an acquisition to drive its profits growth.

For all the group's strengths, it could not prevent a near 10 per cent drop in earnings per share in 1990, the first setback that any board member present yesterday could remember.

Dollar weakness, of the

American and the Australian variety, are a ready scapegoat for much of the setback. But while Cahill professed satisfaction with the group's performance in the face of worldwide recession, his successor must ensure that reporting downturns in profit does not become a habit.

### Visible snags

If Britain's invisible trade really ran a surplus of £700 million a month at the end of last year, as the CSO now believes, then some of the country's deepest economic problems, as well as the government's biggest headaches, might seem to have been a mere statistical illusion.

Subtracting £700 million from monthly trade deficits in the

region of £1 billion would leave the current account for 1991 less than £4 billion in the red, instead of the £11 billion the Treasury projected last November.

Why, then, was market reaction so muted? The simple answer was that analysts found the figures unbelievable. The third quarter surplus was more than doubled on revision, so the figure for the fourth quarter could just as easily be halved in a few months' time.

Suspensions were aggravated by the fact that virtually all the apparent improvement was in the "interest profits and dividends" lines of the invisible balance, notoriously the most slippery of all official figures.

To make matters worse, the shifts in bank interest earnings seemed to defy economic logic. The statisticians had assumed

that the combination of high British interest rates, strong sterling and large capital inflows into the pound would lead to a sharp deterioration in the second half. Instead net interest earnings improved by £1 billion.

But with all the caveats, the CSO's statistics are based on the best information available. Assuming even that the fourth quarter figures were an aberration, the full year invisible surplus of £5.1 billion may well be about right.

If this is true then Britain does have something to show for all the capital outflows of the Eighties — and our economic predicament is not nearly as bad as we previously believed.

### Bad omens

While there are special circumstances surrounding the three quarters fall in Henry Ansbacher's profits and

reduced dividend, the figures are still an ill omen for the start of the merchant banks' reporting season. Ansbacher lent almost 5 per cent of its capital to Roger Levitt and suffered accordingly.

Today Kleinwort Benson is expected to serve up a far worse set of results, and its problems are more deep-seated than the plight of one entrepreneurial customer.

The slump in the securities market and the mergers and acquisition market would have depressed Kleinwort's profits in any case. But a £33 million loss on the sale of a stake in Premier Consolidated has rubbed a barrel of salt into the wound. The bank is now tipped to be closing all or part of its securities business.

Kleinwort has been the greatest victim of the downturn in the City but even Schroders and SG Warburg have felt the chill.

The recovery in the equities market, if sustained, will soon reanimate idle corporate finance departments, but until then the effects of the recession on the City will show themselves to have been as painful as in the rest of the economy.

## BA finds a cloud in clearer skies over Atlantic



Sympathetic: Samuel Skinner, US transportation secretary

BRITISH Airways will hardly have time to level off from the turbulence created by the opening of Heathrow to strong competition, before American and British aviation officials begin fresh talks designed to scrap the system which involves governments deeply in decisions over which airline is allowed to fly where.

Paul Grech, director of the office of international affairs at the American transportation department in Washington, said: "What we want is to explode the whole system and make it totally open for both sides." Mr Grech was the leading negotiator for the American team that won agreement for the United and American airlines to fly into Heathrow.

He added: "We would like to see a greater access both in the number of gateways and in the number of American carriers which can fly into the UK, in exchange for their being able to fly through and on from the US. We would hope that eventually all US carriers would have the right to service the UK market from any US city."

These controversial topics will be on the table within three months, but not for the first time. The American claim they reached the verge of a transatlantic open skies policy 15 months ago when Cecil Parkinson was transport secretary. Those talks were grounded over two issues: cabotage, which would have allowed British carriers to compete with the US airlines from city to city within America, and direct foreign ownership of US airlines, which is restricted to no more than 25 per cent of the vote.

Mr Grech said: "At the time, the US was unable to discuss these questions, but the two transport secretaries [America's Samuel Skinner and Britain's Malcolm Rifkind] have committed their sides to a renewed exploration of liberalisation. I think that means all questions are back on the table."

The first shot at liberal-

isation this week failed to win universal approval. The British government's decision to accept a report from the Civil Aviation Authority and open Heathrow to all carriers, was followed by its approval of the transfer of 12 Heathrow routes, replacing the financially weak Pan American and Trans World Airlines with the number one and two US carriers, United and American. The two paid less than £400 million as an entry price. In exchange, Britain can

asia, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia from three American gateways, which have yet to be named.

BA feels the agreement gave it the worst of all worlds, resulting in increased and tougher competition across the Atlantic, no real access to the American market and a fly-through Australian route via Seattle when it wanted the route through Los Angeles.

The agreement has, however, offered increased opportunities for Richard Branson's Virgin Airlines. American analysts say the competition will benefit the consumer. United and American are expected to increase the quality of their in-flight service to meet the standards set by BA, stage promotional campaigns in Britain and set bargain fares for inaugural flights this summer.

The frequency of United and American flights is also likely to increase sharply. American officials say Pan Am and TWA last year sought a considerable increase in the number of flights they wanted the option to operate in 1991. Meanwhile, America has moved little on loosening the rules on foreign ownership. While Mr Skinner says officials are to look sympathetically at proposals that curtail a foreigner controlling up to half the votes in an American airline, the law remains that no one except American citizens can control more than 25 per cent.

A bill would have to pass through Congress to change the rule. Legislation would also be needed to allow foreign airlines to collect passengers in America and ferry them round the country. In the 88-year history of aviation, the weekend's pact was the end of an era for the two American airlines that once dominated the jet age. For those who need to get into the business of offering a global service to dominate the world, it looks the beginning of another.

PHILIP ROBINSON  
New York

## Hillsdown puts future in food

### TEMPUS

WHEN the books come to be written about who did what during the recession of the early Nineties, the name of Hillsdown Holdings will be writ large.

Chairman Harry Solomon is not a man to go on the defensive. He prefers to spend. Hillsdown's recession-beating shopping spree included Premier Brands (bought in 1989 for £182 million), Canada Packers (Hillsdown has a 56 per cent stake in Canada's biggest food processor) and Strong & Fisher, the leather group.

Pre-tax profits may have edged up to £191 million in the year to end-December (£189 million) but earnings per share have fallen for the first time in Hillsdown's history, from 29.6p to 25.3p, mainly due to a 12 per cent increase in the number of shares in issue.

Hillsdown's gearing rose from 63.5 per cent to 72 per cent. Further damage to the balance sheet has been done by £76.1 million of extraordinary costs. As a result, retained profits drops from £108 million to £17.4 million.

There is, however, much to encourage elsewhere. Hillsdown's corporate strategy is now clear. With Premier Brands and Canada Packers on board, 84 per cent of Hillsdown's sales and operating profits are derived from food. The target appears to be 100 per cent, indicating that non-food activities such as furniture, housebuilding and property, where combined operating profits fell 55 per cent to £42.8 million, are not part of the company's future.

Food certainly appears to be what Hillsdown does best. Despite the acquisition of the low margin Canada Packers, operating margins from the group's food companies rose a full point to 5.8 per cent.

The 11 per cent increase in the final dividend to 6p (5.4p) makes 8p (7.2p). With the dividend covered more than three times and interest cover of more than four times, shareholders look secure. Up 8p to 244p yesterday, the shares are on a multiple of under 10. Buy.

### Enterprise Oil

THE short-term outlook for British oil independents such as Enterprise is geared to the sterling oil price. Last year, that averaged £12.90 per barrel, thanks to high prices in the autumn. Now it stands at £10.30, although the exchange rate, at least, has started moving in the right direction.

Enterprise expects an 11 per cent rise in production this year, after an 18 per cent advance last year. Unless the oil price gap closes, therefore, management's prized financial skills will be sorely tested, getting close to maintaining earnings, which rose by a fifth to 34.4p per share last year.

Given constant prices, there would be plenty of growth over the next few years. Enterprise plans to double production to 250,000 barrels per day of oil equivalent by the middle of the decade on the back of current North Sea developments.

That level would be near the peak, so Enterprise would still need more to improve on its current rating. At 588p, down with the rest of the market in recent weeks, the shares sell at 17 times last year's earnings and yield 3.4 per cent in dividend. However they stand at a discount to the conservative value of the group's 944 million barrels of reserves.

Beyond the North Sea, Enterprise has had no instant success exploring off the West coast. More than £250 million will be needed for field development this year, so the group may well cut back on a similar sum earmarked for exploration and appraisal and buy more proven acreage. Widely differing market views offer scope for savvy dealing.

Such a prospect excites fears of a rights issue in the City. Enterprise has, however, shown no disposition to shoot itself in the foot. The shares are a core long-term investment, but prey to oil-price vagaries.

T&N makes no apology for its reliance on its automotive business, which accounts for 65 per cent of the whole, although this will be reduced to the half-way mark in time.

The company believes that with its slimmer cost base and higher efficiency it will be in a position to speed ahead when the automotive industry lights change from amber to green. T&N has, meanwhile, an

industrial and engineering side which is doing rather better than its automotive brother — though not strong enough to offset the automotive weakness.

The group has also taken a £14 million redundancy knife to costs, cutting 2,400 jobs out of a 42,000 workforce by the end of February. So T&N's profit outcome for the year ended December 31 was a pre-tax £70.5 million, down from £84 million, which does further damage to an already unimpressive net earnings record. The final dividend is held at 7.25p, making 10.85p (10.75p) a share.

T&N is a case where investment patience could eventually be rewarded. The trappings of the old Turner & Newall group are all but shaken off, and the "new" T&N is almost starting to rise. Though the return on average capital employed was down in 1990 from 22 per cent to 17 per cent, the 25 per cent return hurdle is still one T&N is determined to cross.

This will be a tough year for T&N, and real profits recovery can only seriously be expected in 1992 and 1993. But as world economies turn up, and group markets improve, T&N should at least be on the starting blocks.

Pre-tax profits could merely stand still at £70 million this year, and then rise to £87 million in 1992. At 187p, down 9p, the shares trade on 13.9 and 11.2 times earnings, respectively. However, until net earnings establish a definite upward trend, the shares look fully priced.

### T&N

## Nuclear budgets for longer life

EXTENDING the lives of Britain's Magnox nuclear power stations will allow Nuclear Electric, the state-owned power company, to generate £1 billion of electricity at 1.5p a unit, substantially below the price of any alternative power source, John Collier, the chairman, said yesterday.

If all the extensions are approved, the profitability of Nuclear Electric could be transformed. Prospects would also increase for the abolition of the fossil fuel levy, which compels coal, oil, and gas

burning generators to subsidise the nuclear industry. The prospect of cheap nuclear power could help contain power price rises, and help the nuclear industry improve its public image.

Mr Collier insisted that Nuclear Electric would not build more atomic plants unless they were commercially viable.

At a London conference organised by the Institute of Energy, he predicted that Nuclear Electric would achieve an operating profit in the year ending this month

"very similar" to last year's £220 million. Mr Collier reported improvements in the operating efficiency of the seven remaining Magnox stations and five advanced gas cooled reactors (AGRs).

He said that if the recent price increases for volume users imposed by British Gas are maintained, they will push up the price of power from combined cycle gas turbine plants to between 2.5p and 2.9p a unit (per kilowatt hour).

The Magnox stations currently generate electricity at 5p a unit, including decommissioning costs. AGR stations, which have yet to reach full efficiency, generate at 6.5p a unit. Sizewell B is expected to produce power at 5p a unit when completed.

PowerGen and National Power, the two newly privatised generating companies, averaged a cost of 3.4p a unit in the year to March last year, against a price of 4.8p in the same period by Nuclear Electric, he said.

ROSS TIEMAN

Industrial Correspondent

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Beau goes international

MICHAEL Alen-Buckley, one of the best dressed stockbrokers in the Square Mile — and member, by marriage, of the Fort family — has left James Capel to take up a post at Smith New Court. Alen-Buckley, Rocco Forte's brother-in-law, has spent just over three and a half years at Capel and will join SNC at the end of next month to co-ordinate sales to American clients. He will work with Michael Deeds, the director responsible for the firm's international front base. "I am extremely enthusiastic about the post," says Alen-Buckley, aged 33, who attended Ampleforth, the Jesuit Catholic school in Yorkshire before training as a banked accountant with Pricer & Pricer. After a spell at CT Bowring, he joined leading Newson Smith & Co, a broker that was taken over by County NatWest in April 1986. Known for his impeccable grooming — his suits are altered by Fallon & Harvey and his shirts by Woods & Brown — Alen-Buckley leaves for a long Easter break in Italy with Gianni, his television producer wife, and their two children.

### Outward bound

ACK Summerscale, head of K equity research at arclyde de Zoete Wedd and one of the firm's longest-serving employees, is leaving 10 Square

Summerscale, who trained as an accountant with Coopers & Lybrand before joining de Zoete & Bevan in 1970 as an analyst, has spent 21 years with the firm, becoming a partner in 1985, and rising up the ranks to his most recent position in December 1989. Now seeking "a change of direction outside the City", he will stay on at BZW until the end of April, to ensure a smooth handover to Bill Smith, former chief equity strategist. Smith, aged 36, who trained as an actuary — that cautious profession said to be for accountants who find accountancy too exciting — spent seven years as a fund manager with Standard Life before spending five years at Prudential Bache. Helping him in his new task is Robert Lister, a senior analyst and director of BZW Research.



"He is out having his eyes tested"

THE recession has prompted Dorset Chamber of Commerce and Industry to take some fairly drastic action: it has set up a Business Samaritan helpline for companies struggling to make ends meet.

### Cold card call

OUR tale of Roger Levitt and his colourful Christmas cards has offered further insight into the way the Levitt Group worked. It seems that two different sets of cards were drawn up, 12,000 of them destined for the company and a further 500 for Levitt himself, all at a cost of £4,599.50. While less than our earlier estimate of £20,000, the bill, nevertheless, remains unpaid. The company card, in keeping with the failed group's image as a one-stop financial centre, features a Father Christmas and two reindeer crashing in through the side of the company's head office. They are then shown blasting out the other side clutching a life insurance policy each, with a Levitt salesman in tow, who is grinning from ear to ear at the thought of the commission he has just earned. "It obviously tickled his ego," says James Kelsey, the unpaid designer, who unwittingly helped heap misfortune on his own head by using a Levitt trick of the trade. "It was my first job for the company and I cold-called them," he says.

### Budgetary bliss

BEING married, according to the Research School of Social

Sciences at the Australian National University, buys £20,000 worth of happiness. Translating happiness into monetary terms, the study claims that if a person is single, he or she will have to earn £28,000 to be as happy as a married person earning only £8,000. Marriage is the "single most important source of a satisfying life," says the report.

### Paperless trade

THOUSANDS of New York's homeless, who have been moonlighting as freelance New York Daily News salesmen during a four-month strike at the tabloid paper, have been forced to return to their previous profession — begging. Robert Maxwell, proprietor of the Daily Mirror, may have saved many of the paper's 1,800 jobs after reaching agreement yesterday with the ten striking unions, but he tipped in the bud the new careers of more than 10,000 homeless who had been given free copies of the tabloid to sell on subway platforms for whatever price they could get. The homeless were averaging 25 cents a copy in the rush hour. The Daily News, eager to retain some advertising revenue by getting the paper distributed, thus gave away bundles of the afternoon edition. The paper will now be distributed through normal channels.

CAROL LEONARD

## SURGENT PLC

|                     | Half year to 31 Dec 1990 | Half year to 31 Dec 1989 |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Turnover            | £721m                    | £589m                    |
| Pre-tax Profit      | £1.3m                    | £1.4m                    |
| Taxation            | £0.6m                    | £0.5m                    |
| Earnings per share  | 19p                      | 23p                      |
| Dividends per share | 125p                     | 125p                     |

- \* Sales strong in UK
- \* Some pressure on margins late in the period
- \* Episode stores on target
- \* Dividend held

Peter Wolff  
Chairman

The summarised results for the half year to 31 December 1990 which are unaudited have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies adopted in the accounts for the year to 30 June 1990.

The contents of this advertisement for which the directors of S.R. Gent plc are solely responsible have been approved for the purposes of the Financial Services Act 1986 by Price Waterhouse who are authorised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry on investment business. Past performance is not necessarily an indication of future performance.

## An important announcement to our stockholders:

Copies of the 1990 Annual Report of Citicorp can now be obtained from:-

Citibank, N.A., 336 Strand, London WC2R 1HB, telephone 071- 438 0959 between the hours of 9.30am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Postal applications should be addressed for the attention of Lynne Lettis, Corporate Affairs.

**CITIBANK**

Citicorp, 399 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10043  
Incorporated in the State of Delaware



## Alfa-Laval bid halt extended

THE European Commission has extended its suspension of the bid by Tetra Pak, the packaging group, for Alfa-Laval, the agricultural and engineering group.

The Commission must either approve the deal or launch a full-scale monopolies enquiry next week. It said in a statement the extension would not prejudice its decision.

## Minorco move

Minorco, the Luxembourg group, has subscribed for a 17 per cent stake in Ivernia West, owner of an Irish zinc property, and will appoint a representative to Ivernia's board. Minorco's investment involves £3.17 million, and is the bulk of a 6.9 million placing by Ivernia at £0.53p (48.6p) a share.

## French buy

Rentokil, the pest control and property services group, is to buy Michel Caillard, a Paris tropical plant rental firm for up to £67.2 million. Caillard made £14.1 million profit on £108 million sales in the year to August.

## Power bond

East Midlands Electricity is to raise £150 million via a Eurosterling bond maturing in 2016 at a 11.9 per cent coupon lead-managed by BZW.

## Loss at FAI

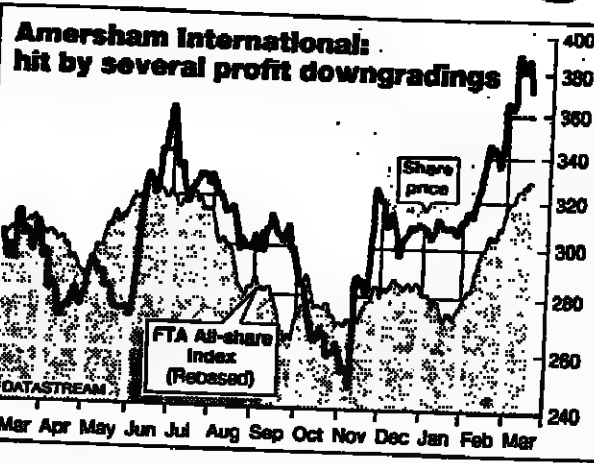
FAI Insurance, the Australian insurance group, made an interim operating loss of £19.9 million. The half-time dividend falls 1 cent to 4 cents.

## Oil purchase

BHP, the Australian mining group, is to buy Hamilton Oil Corporation for \$40 per share.

## STOCK MARKET

# Nomura is big buyer of shares in power groups



bottom with falls of about 1%.

Glaxo fell 28p to 964p amid claims that broker Kleinwort Benson had become bearish. This affected Fisons, which fell 12p to 470p, Wellcome, 10p lower to 498p, and SmithKline Beecham A, 8p down to 745p.

Amersham International, the diagnostics group, fell 17p to 369p as at least two big securities houses took negative views. Cazenove, the company's own broker, is believed to have reduced its profit estimate for the current year by 20 per cent to £16 million. This compares with almost £24 million last time. Warburg Securities is also

thought to have become a seller.

Sales in the final quarter were flat. The cost of radioactive isotopes, Amersham's key raw material, has also been rising.

BTR advanced 26p to 402p despite the first drop in pre-tax profits for more than 22 years, from £1.08 billion to £966 million. But the absence

of any fund-raising and the increase in the total dividend were well received in the City. The group blamed the setback on the weakness of the Australian and American dollars and the recession affecting its automotive, consumer and construction divisions. BTR intends to make some big

acquisitions soon. A spokesman said: "The market will be right for acquisitions soon."

A profits setback also left T&N, the automotive products group, 8p cheaper at 188p. Full-year pre-tax profits tumbled £14 million to £70 million. T&N spent £14 million shedding 2,400 jobs and gave warning that more will have to go.

A profits warning left Logitec, the computer equipment group, 1p easier at 27p. The group says that conditions remain difficult and this will be reflected in the full-year figures.

Unigate, the dairy products and road transport group, rose 3p to 327p after announcing that pre-tax profits for the year to the end of this month will fail to meet the City's expectations. The board is forecasting £75 million compared with £105.5 million last time. It blamed the non-food and the poultry operations. United Biscuits was unchanged at 375p ahead of figures today.

Rank Organisation fell 13p to 726p after a gloomy annual meeting. The group issued a warning that it was feeling the recession in the first part of the current year.

Grand Metropolitan rose 6p to 744p as trading started in its American Depository Receipts facility in New York.

The group also gave a presentation for the 135 bankers which make up the consortium financing its brewery-for-pubs exchange with Courage.

MICHAEL CLARK

## Dow lifted by rate hopes

New York  
BLUE chips advanced in mid-morning dealings after Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, said that the credit squeeze presented risks to the economy and that further action on interest rates may be needed. The Dow Jones industrial average was 8,422 higher at 2,930.94 at 10.30am.

Joseph Di Cicciaccio, the head of institutional trading at Sanford C Bernstein, said that Mr Greenspan's comments raised hopes of a further easing in monetary policy. He said the higher than expected retail sales figures for February also helped. (Reuters)

## HK retreats for second day running

Hong Kong  
PRICES eased for the second consecutive day as the bulls sat back to digest the sharp run-up of 20.15 per cent during the previous ten weeks. The Hang Seng index dropped 23.59 points to 3,634.48. The broader-based Hong Kong index fell 15.37 points to 2,384.48 on a turnover of HK\$1.33 billion (£91.6 million) compared with HK\$1.26 billion on Tuesday. Brokers attributed the retreat more to a lack of buying than to a concerted selling, although limited profit taking by local speculators was reported.

Brokers said that a rise by the HK Bank had cushioned the slide. The HK Bank, which led the list of the most active shares, climbed 15 cents to HK\$5.60 despite reporting a 35 per cent decline in last year's profits. Brokers said the market had absorbed the news. (Reuters)

## Tokyo falls 309 points

Tokyo  
SHARES ended a five-day run of advances after investors took Wall Street's drop on Tuesday as a signal to slow down. The Nikkei index dropped 309.10 points, or 1.16 per cent, to 26,418.32.

Turnover was a light 500 million yen, down from 1,100 million on Tuesday.

Dealers said that wariness over the dollar/yen rate and the American economy as well as interest rates put investors on the sidelines.

Frankfurt - A sharp fall in the price of Siemens, the electronics group, tipped the balance in an otherwise featureless market and pulled prices 1.9 per cent lower. The Dax index ended 29.42 points lower at 1,542.19.

Sydney - Investors ignored disappointing profit results to push the market to a high for the year. The All-Ordinaries index ended on fourth consecutive daily gain with a 2.8-point rise to 1,432.2.

Singapore - The market closed mixed after selective bargain hunting had alternated with profit taking. The Straits Times industrial index ended at 1,485.19, up 7.64 points. (Reuters)

## MAJOR INDICES

| Index     | Value     | Change  |
|-----------|-----------|---------|
| New York  | 2,930.94  | +8,422  |
| London    | 2,930.94  | +8,422  |
| Tokyo     | 26,418.32 | -309.10 |
| Hong Kong | 3,634.48  | -23.59  |
| Frankfurt | 1,542.19  | -29.42  |
| Sydney    | 1,432.2   | +2.8    |
| Singapore | 1,485.19  | +7.64   |

\*Denotes latest trading price

## RECENT ISSUES

| Company            | Price | Change |
|--------------------|-------|--------|
| Amersham           | 369p  | -17p   |
| Glaxo              | 964p  | -28p   |
| Fisons             | 470p  | -12p   |
| Wellcome           | 498p  | -10p   |
| SmithKline Beecham | 745p  | -8p    |
| BTR                | 402p  | +26p   |
| Unigate            | 327p  | +3p    |
| Rank Organisation  | 726p  | -13p   |
| Grand Metropolitan | 744p  | +6p    |

## WALL STREET

| Index     | Value     | Change  |
|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Dow Jones | 2,930.94  | +8,422  |
| S&P 500   | 428.12    | +13.12  |
| Nikkei    | 26,418.32 | -309.10 |
| Hang Seng | 3,634.48  | -23.59  |
| FTSE 100  | 2,930.94  | +8,422  |
| DAX       | 1,542.19  | -29.42  |
| ASX       | 1,432.2   | +2.8    |
| SEAX      | 1,485.19  | +7.64   |

## LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

| Option             | Price | Change |
|--------------------|-------|--------|
| Amersham           | 369p  | -17p   |
| Glaxo              | 964p  | -28p   |
| Fisons             | 470p  | -12p   |
| Wellcome           | 498p  | -10p   |
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| BTR                | 402p  | +26p   |
| Unigate            | 327p  | +3p    |
| Rank Organisation  | 726p  | -13p   |
| Grand Metropolitan | 744p  | +6p    |

## TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

| Option             | Price | Change |
|--------------------|-------|--------|
| Amersham           | 369p  | -17p   |
| Glaxo              | 964p  | -28p   |
| Fisons             | 470p  | -12p   |
| Wellcome           | 498p  | -10p   |
| SmithKline Beecham | 745p  | -8p    |
| BTR                | 402p  | +26p   |
| Unigate            | 327p  | +3p    |
| Rank Organisation  | 726p  | -13p   |
| Grand Metropolitan | 744p  | +6p    |

# GLYNWED. THE RESULTS.

RESULTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1990

|                    | 1990      | 1989      |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Turnover           | £1,099.8m | £1,125.2m |
| Operating Profit   | £87.8m    | £105.3m   |
| Pre-Tax Profit     | £70.3m    | £93.8m    |
| Earnings per Share | 23.88p    | 30.66p    |
| Dividend per Share | 11.65p    | 11.65p    |

International. Plastics. Metals. Engineering. These are the words to describe Glynwed today.

Around a third of sales are now overseas. Glynwed's fastest growing business is in advanced thermoplastic systems for industry and utilities, worldwide.

The Group's expanded metals distribution network is among the leading European suppliers of stainless steel.

Glynwed has invested significantly in growth markets in recent years, and is well placed to meet the international challenges of the future.

**Glynwed International plc**

THE 1990 REPORT & ACCOUNTS WILL BE POSTED TO SHAREHOLDERS IN MID-MAY. FOR A COPY PLEASE WRITE TO THE GROUP SECRETARY, GLYNWED INTERNATIONAL PLC, HEADLAND HOUSE, NEW COVENTRY ROAD, SHELTON, BIRMINGHAM B26 3AZ.



## Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

| No. | Company           | Group           | Gain or Loss |
|-----|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1   | Essex             | Textiles        |              |
| 2   | Manfield          | Breweries       |              |
| 3   | Wells Water       | Water           |              |
| 4   | Reed Int          | Newspapers/Pub  |              |
| 5   | Raine Ind         | Building/Roads  |              |
| 6   | Bodges            | Food            |              |
| 7   | Lawrence (Walter) | Building/Roads  |              |
| 8   | Essex             | Textiles        |              |
| 9   | Essex (Africa)    | Building/Roads  |              |
| 10  | Johnson           | Chemicals       |              |
| 11  | Kingsford         | Drapery/Stores  |              |
| 12  | Essex             | Textiles        |              |
| 13  | TI                | Industrial A-D  |              |
| 14  | Doonan            | Industrial A-D  |              |
| 15  | Hunterprint       | Paper/Print/Adv |              |
| 16  | Ratners Group     | Drapery/Stores  |              |
| 17  | Capita            | Industrial A-D  |              |
| 18  | Prop Security     | Property        |              |
| 19  | Alcon             | Drapery/Stores  |              |
| 20  | BPP               | Newspapers/Pub  |              |
| 21  | Williams (Thomas) | Industrial L-R  |              |
| 22  | Barton            | Drapery/Stores  |              |
| 23  | Morgan Cde        | Industrial L-R  |              |
| 24  | BVI               | Industrial A-D  |              |
| 25  | Lowell (VT)       | Building/Roads  |              |
| 26  | Color Gp          | Oil/Gas         |              |
| 27  | Williams Hides    | Industrial S-Z  |              |
| 28  | Essex             | Textiles        |              |
| 29  | Essex             | Textiles        |              |
| 30  | Grand Ave         | Industrial A-D  |              |
| 31  | Trinity Int       | Newspapers/Pub  |              |
| 32  | Chatter Com       | Industrial A-D  |              |
| 33  | Wood (SW)         | Industrial S-Z  |              |
| 34  | PFG Rodgson       | Industrial L-R  |              |
| 35  | Refined Bar       | Property        |              |
| 36  | Fletcher King     | Property        |              |
| 37  | Ferguson Int      | Paper/Print/Adv |              |
| 38  | Defence Town      | Property        |              |
| 39  | HFC               | Transport       |              |
| 40  | New Int           | Newspapers/Pub  |              |
| 41  | Cable Wires       | Electricals     |              |
| 42  | Camper            | Leisure         |              |
| 43  | Hilldown          | Food            |              |
| 44  | Watson            | Paper/Print/Adv |              |

Please take into account any minus signs

| Weekly Dividend  |     |     |     |     |     |       |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper. |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Mon  | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Total |
|  |     |     |     |     |     |       |

There were no valid claims for yesterday's Portfolio Platinum game.

| BRITISH POUNDS |      |     |      |
|----------------|------|-----|------|
| 1990           | High | Low | Bank |
|                |      |     |      |

| SHORTS (Under Five Years) |        |       |       |
|---------------------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Company                   | Price  | Yield | Div   |
| Essex                     | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Manfield                  | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Wells Water               | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Reed Int                  | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Raine Ind                 | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Bodges                    | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Lawrence (Walter)         | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex                     | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex (Africa)            | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Johnson                   | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Kingsford                 | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex                     | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| TI                        | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Doonan                    | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Hunterprint               | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Ratners Group             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Capita                    | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Prop Security             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Alcon                     | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| BPP                       | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Williams (Thomas)         | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Barton                    | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Morgan Cde                | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| BVI                       | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Lowell (VT)               | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Color Gp                  | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Williams Hides            | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex                     | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex                     | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Grand Ave                 | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Trinity Int               | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Chatter Com               | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Wood (SW)                 | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| PFG Rodgson               | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Refined Bar               | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Fletcher King             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Ferguson Int              | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Defence Town              | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| HFC                       | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| New Int                   | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Cable Wires               | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Camper                    | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Hilldown                  | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Watson                    | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |

| FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS |        |       |       |
|-----------------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Company               | Price  | Yield | Div   |
| Essex                 | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Manfield              | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Wells Water           | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Reed Int              | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Raine Ind             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Bodges                | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Lawrence (Walter)     | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex                 | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex (Africa)        | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Johnson               | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Kingsford             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex                 | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| TI                    | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Doonan                | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Hunterprint           | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Ratners Group         | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Capita                | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Prop Security         | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Alcon                 | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| BPP                   | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Williams (Thomas)     | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Barton                | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Morgan Cde            | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| BVI                   | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Lowell (VT)           | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Color Gp              | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Williams Hides        | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex                 | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex                 | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Grand Ave             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Trinity Int           | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Chatter Com           | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Wood (SW)             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| PFG Rodgson           | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Refined Bar           | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Fletcher King         | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Ferguson Int          | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Defence Town          | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| HFC                   | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| New Int               | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Cable Wires           | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Camper                | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Hilldown              | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Watson                | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |

| OVER FIFTEEN YEARS |        |       |       |
|--------------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Company            | Price  | Yield | Div   |
| Essex              | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Manfield           | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Wells Water        | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Reed Int           | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Raine Ind          | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Bodges             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Lawrence (Walter)  | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex              | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex (Africa)     | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Johnson            | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Kingsford          | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex              | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| TI                 | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Doonan             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Hunterprint        | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Ratners Group      | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Capita             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Prop Security      | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Alcon              | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| BPP                | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Williams (Thomas)  | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Barton             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Morgan Cde         | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| BVI                | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Lowell (VT)        | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Color Gp           | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Williams Hides     | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex              | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex              | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Grand Ave          | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Trinity Int        | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Chatter Com        | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Wood (SW)          | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| PFG Rodgson        | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Refined Bar        | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Fletcher King      | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Ferguson Int       | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Defence Town       | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| HFC                | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| New Int            | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Cable Wires        | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Camper             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Hilldown           | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Watson             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |

| UNDATED           |        |       |       |
|-------------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Company           | Price  | Yield | Div   |
| Essex             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Manfield          | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Wells Water       | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Reed Int          | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Raine Ind         | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Bodges            | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Lawrence (Walter) | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex (Africa)    | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Johnson           | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Kingsford         | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| TI                | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Doonan            | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Hunterprint       | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Ratners Group     | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Capita            | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Prop Security     | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Alcon             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| BPP               | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Williams (Thomas) | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Barton            | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Morgan Cde        | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| BVI               | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Lowell (VT)       | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Color Gp          | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Williams Hides    | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Grand Ave         | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Trinity Int       | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Chatter Com       | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Wood (SW)         | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| PFG Rodgson       | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Refined Bar       | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Fletcher King     | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Ferguson Int      | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Defence Town      | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| HFC               | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| New Int           | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Cable Wires       | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Camper            | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Hilldown          | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Watson            | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |

| INDEX-LINKED      |        |       |       |
|-------------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Company           | Price  | Yield | Div   |
| Essex             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Manfield          | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Wells Water       | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Reed Int          | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Raine Ind         | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Bodges            | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Lawrence (Walter) | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex (Africa)    | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Johnson           | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Kingsford         | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| TI                | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Doonan            | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Hunterprint       | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Ratners Group     | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Capita            | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Prop Security     | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Alcon             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| BPP               | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Williams (Thomas) | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Barton            | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Morgan Cde        | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| BVI               | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Lowell (VT)       | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Color Gp          | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Williams Hides    | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Essex             | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Grand Ave         | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Trinity Int       | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Chatter Com       | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Wood (SW)         | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| PFG Rodgson       | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Refined Bar       | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Fletcher King     | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Ferguson Int      | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Defence Town      | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| HFC               | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| New Int           | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Cable Wires       | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Camper            | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Hilldown          | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Watson            | 100.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |

| BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP |         |       |       |       |     |
|---------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| 00 01               |         | Price | Gain  | Yld   |     |
| Low                 | Company | Bid   | Offer | Chrgs | P/E |



# ACCOUNTANCY & FINANCE



## YOUR CHANCE TO JOIN A WINNER FINANCIAL CONTROLLERSHIP

- RAPIDLY EXPANDING U.S./MULTINATIONAL SOFTWARE COMPANY WITH IMPORTANT EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTION
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- EARLY RESPONSIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION IN MANAGEMENT TEAMS IN MUNICH AND PARIS, AS WELL AS THE U.K.
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- ATTRACTIVE PACKAGE TO INCLUDE EQUITY AND OTHER BENEFITS

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- WILLING TO TRAVEL
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- WITH A SENSE OF HUMOUR

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## HIGHLY NUMERATE? STRONG COMMUNICATOR? WE'LL REALLY GET YOUR CAREER MOVING.

Total Oil Great Britain Limited are the UK marketing subsidiary of one of the world's leading oil companies.

Our strategy for continued success in this highly competitive field places great emphasis on the importance of stringent financial controls and the accuracy of management information. The following roles will therefore be key in contributing to our future direction and profitability, and call for a special blend of commercial flair and interpersonal skills.

### BUSINESS ANALYST

As part of our Management Information team you will be providing data to all levels of management, together with appropriate analysis and commentary, in order to help shape future policy and action. You will be a graduate in a business-related discipline with 1-2 years' commercial experience, and perhaps you are also working towards a CIMA qualification. You must be able to demonstrate the high level of numeracy and computer skills required to develop meaningful management information, as well as the personal qualities needed for its effective communication.

### STOCKS SUPERVISOR

Working within the Finance department, you will be responsible for all aspects of the control and reconciliation of stocks of crude oil

and finished products held at sites throughout the UK. This will involve you in preparing monthly stock valuations, maintaining purchase records, providing management information on stock movements and liaising extensively both internally and with HM Customs and Excise to ensure timely and accurate payment of import and export duties. You will have two Stock Clerks assisting you, so you will need to be able to supervise their workload. Although previous experience in the oil industry is not essential, you will need to hold or be working towards an ACCA qualification, and have a highly disciplined, accurate approach to your work. In addition, computer literacy is a must as you will be expected to develop and implement a stocks computerisation project.

To people with the ambition and ability to succeed, for both positions we offer an excellent salary and benefits package, together with good opportunities for progression throughout the company. So if you feel you have the outstanding levels of numeracy and communication skills we're looking for, please write with a full CV, to: Christine Gunn, Personnel Department, Total Oil Great Britain Limited, Total House, 4 Lancer Square, London W8 4EW.

**TOTAL**

## WORLDWIDE OPPORTUNITIES IN PUBLIC PRACTICE

### USA

A major international firm is currently recruiting for outstanding newly qualified ACA's to work with them in the USA. A strong confident personality is as much a prerequisite for this position as an excellent academic record and blue chip systems based audit experience. Successful candidates will enjoy varied audit portfolios and will have excellent scope for career progression.

### EUROPE

Excellent opportunities currently exist for internationally minded language speakers throughout Europe. Current requirements are for newly qualified ACA's with a firm close exam record and fluent German to work in the north west of Germany. If you do not speak a European language fluently but fulfil the other requirements, a move to Portugal, the Netherlands or Italy may be an option for you. For further information on these locations and others in Eastern and Western Europe, please call the number below.

For further information on any overseas vacancies or for a confidential chat please contact  
Kathryn Barry on 071 404 3155 or 081 540 4682 at Alderwick Peachell & Partners,  
125 High Holborn, London WC1V 6QA (RSC CONS)

**Alderwick  
Peachell  
& Partners Ltd**

### CARIBBEAN

Enjoy a high standard of living combined with an interesting, financial services oriented portfolio of work. The Caribbean offers newly qualified audit seniors the chance to "get away from it all" while at the same time enhancing their professional work experience. Major international firms in Bermuda, The British Virgin Islands, and the Cayman Islands offer competitive salaries and good career progression.

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA

If you are a qualified ACA with a good general practice background, are keen to use your client development skills and you are looking for a complete change then perhaps a move to PNG would be a good one. Maintaining high international standards, your portfolio will be audit based covering the mining, forestry and agricultural sectors. Opportunities for capital accumulation exist and furnished accommodations are provided.

### \$42,000

### \$36,000

## Premier Merchant Bank - City business brain + computer experience? ... move into Corporate Finance Package to £25,000

Our client, probably the most prestigious Merchant Bank in the City, has a well deserved reputation for sound financial advice and a creative approach to problem solving in the fast changing financial world.

They need a creative Analyst to join the Corporate Finance Team responsible for providing financial advice to the electricity and natural resource industries worldwide. The team's pre-eminence is achieved through a combination of sector specialisation, advanced use of computer technology and recruitment of the highest calibre staff.

The role includes analysis of business situations, devising and building computer models, analysing output and discussion/presentation of results to non-technical clients, often at a very senior level. Training in Corporate Finance will be provided at an appropriate business school.

You will be a graduate in Maths, Computer Science, Engineering or a similar discipline from a good University. Ideally you have had 6 months - 3 years work experience, with some exposure to computing and are now ready to accept responsibility in a high pressure financial environment.

You need not necessarily have financial skills now but you will be seeking to move into an environment demanding excellence in technical and financial disciplines and have wider ambitions within Corporate Finance.

To apply telephone David Clarke weekends/evenings on 0293 862247 or during office hours on 071 489 6165 or send your CV to him at Sector Personnel, 12 Well Court, London EC4M 9DN.

**Sector Personnel**  
12 Well Court London EC4M 9DN Telephone 071 489 0165

## Manager Financial Reporting ACA or well on the way? Creative, confident and looking for career enhancement? This job opportunity could be your turning point.

This subsidiary of a major international company values the support of a first-class financial division providing accounting consultancy, policy and advisory services to its management and board through a quality and visionary approach.

Applications are invited from French speaking accountants to fill a role primarily concerned with the controlling and recording of accounting information for the UK group for communication to the international parent company.

Responsibility also extends to taxation and consolidation matters as well as deputising the Head of Department.

To take the successful applicant will be expected to contribute actively to the development and enhancement of procedures and systems and therefore previous commercial experience is desirable.

The employee package includes a salary circa £25,000, company car and excellent fringe benefits.

In the first instance, please write in strict confidence, to DAVID KNOWLES, senior manager 071/786/008 or PRS Limited, Colindale House, 74-76 Turnpike Lane, Haringey, Herts. AL9 8JW. Telephone 0707 264422. Telex: 0707 278422.

**PRS International Recruitment Consultants**  
Hillingdon & Haringey Offices

## Authority Within An Authority

## FINANCE DIRECTOR

££40k + performance  
related pay

Somerset's gain is our loss, that is for sure, as Ray Spurgeon, our present postholder moves to a prestigious position in that lovely county.

A professional in every respect, he is wholly representative of the calibre of person we anticipate responding to this advertisement.

Allow us to explain.

A weighty position bringing considerable authority and responsibility, you will not just be highly qualified professionally, but recommended by the fact that innovative thought comes naturally.

You will already have demonstrated this trait as leader of the financial function of a large and complex organisation, and will be fully able to help pioneer the role purchasing role here as an Executive Member at one of the largest District Health Authorities in the country, serving 620,000 people. Our budget for this is £200m, and you will be running a large department covering all aspects of financial management.

A knowledge of the NHS is desirable although not essential, after all, responsible big business whatever the product or sector. So, we welcome applications from within and from outside the NHS, but would stress the senior nature of this key position.

Assistance is available with relocation. The District has a car leasing scheme.

Further information and application forms are available from The Director of Personnel, Forest House, Berkeley Avenue, Nottingham NG3 5RB, telephone Nottingham (0602) 691691 ext. 49241, and the aforementioned Ray Spurgeon will be pleased to answer informal enquiries on ext. 45300.

Closing date: 15th March 1991.

**Nottingham Health Authority**

## Accountants

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Commercially focused, innovative and profitable, we have already earned our reputation within the energy industry and, as we continue to evolve, are seeking key finance professionals to play a pivotal role in the management of change.

### Senior Management Accountant

This intellectually demanding, high-profile position revolves around providing internal financial consultancy to the Region's departments, ensuring that a district accounting service is developed and supported. You will need to call upon your extensive knowledge of modern financial techniques and practices, and experience of computerised management information systems to prepare budgets, expenditure proposals and forecasts.

We are looking for a qualified accountant who is self-motivated, resilient and flexible and above all able to demonstrate a practical, commercially-oriented approach to financial control information. Reference: 7004047.

The challenges of both positions will merit a high degree of recognition and reward. Benefits include profit sharing and share save schemes, 30 days' holiday, pension, and sports and social facilities.

For an application form, please call our 24-hour answerphone, quoting the appropriate reference, on 0707 49951. Closing date for receipt of applications 2 April 1991.

### Financial Accountant (Taxation)

Providing a consultancy service to senior management, you will be responsible for the optimisation of the Region's tax position, with a particular focus on developing working procedures and standards to ensure that financial requirements and deadlines are met. You will also liaise with the training and development departments to design specialised financial training modules and advise on the selection and review of trainees.

Proven technical accounting expertise, a positive approach to tax planning, and professional and personal credibility are vital as is a detailed knowledge of PAYE, corporation tax, capital gains tax and VAT. Reference: 7004057.

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Eastern**

## MARKETING MANAGER (AGRICULTURAL)

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Prestigious Motor Manufacturer requires a Marketing Manager (aged 40+) with a proven track record and a sound knowledge of the agricultural industry, to promote their Tractors and Agricultural Machinery Division.

This is a senior position with wide ranging responsibilities, including Marketing Policy, Media Campaigns and the direction and motivation of a team of Area Managers. You will be based at their London Office and report directly to the Managing Director.

The Turn White on 071 528 1281

or fax your CV to him on 071 521 0885

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## DIVISIONAL MANAGER - CLIENT SERVICES Hampshire Salary £40k plus car and benefits

Providence Capital Life Assurance Company Ltd. is one of the fastest growing life assurance and financial services groups in the UK backed by a larger international organisation. Having recently moved to purpose built offices in Hook a subsequent reorganisation of the Client Services area has led to the creation of this new position. Vital to future Head Office development the post reports to a main board Director who seeks a young, energetic, strategic thinker capable of challenging established ideas, planning divisional strategy and influencing at a corporate level. Responsible for both Life and Pensions servicing it offers enormous opportunities to demonstrate and develop your skills as a business manager.

Applicants should be graduates with a professional qualification, have a minimum of ten years Life Assurance/Pensions experience, and be able to show exceptional modern management flair and understanding. It will suit an intellectually curious, results oriented individual who has the environment, securing co-operation and support from all levels internally and externally.

The expectations and demands are high but matched equally by an exceptional salary, car and benefits package.

Curriculum vitae should be forwarded to our advising consultant Nicola Newman MIPM, Ansty Executive Recruitment Service, 1 and 2 The Row, Ansty, Nr. Coventry CV7 9JA, or call her on 0203 614789 for an informal discussion.

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## Senior Assistant Director

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REF: F3

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We are seeking applicants who are able to demonstrate the following:

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- \* The ability to advise Members clearly and accurately on complex financial issues.
- \* Experience of staff management.
- \* Commitment to equality of opportunity.
- \* A positive attitude towards change and problem solving.

Please telephone 071-926 3882 for an application form and information pack containing full details of salary, post requirements and benefits.

Alternatively, write to The Personnel Section, Directorate of Finance, London Borough of Lambeth, Olive Morris House, 18 Brixton Hill, London SW2 1RL.

Closing date: 15th March 1991.

Interviews will be held within two weeks of the closing date.

As part of the Council's equal opportunity employment policy applications are invited from people regardless of race, creed, nationality, disability, age, sex, responsibility for children or dependants and from lesbians and gay men. Applications are particularly welcome from people with disabilities who are under-represented among the Council's staff.

**LAMBETH FINANCE SERVICES**



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We will shortly be holding a CHANGES career preview in LONDON, where you can give a valuable insight into the challenging role of a CUF Financial Consultant - where earnings and rewards match personal effort and success.

See below for details. Numbers are limited, so ring now for your priority invitation.



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up to £40,000 plus car

Bath City Council seeks a City Treasurer to succeed Ian Blair, who has been appointed City Treasurer at Nottingham.

Reporting to the Chief Executive, the Treasurer is a key member of the management team and is expected to play a strong corporate role. The Council has a total workforce of 950 and a gross revenue budget of £54.5m.

Bath is a City with a record of successful achievement. A crucial element in its success has been effective financial management and the Treasurer must be capable of continuing, and building on, that success by formulating and implementing the financial strategies of the Council.

Candidates must contribute to, and assist in, the corporate management of the Council as a whole; demonstrate clearly the ability to understand local government finance; develop effective financial strategies; manage an effective financial framework and service to enable the Council successfully to attain its strategies.

The salary is c£40,000, plus the usual benefits, including a car and relocation package. For further information, please contact:



John Smith  
Succession Planning Associates  
26 Chapter Street  
London SW1P 4ND

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## CORPORATE PLANNING MANAGER

Major Financial Services Institution

Edgware c.£40,000 + banking benefits

This is a new appointment in a leading financial services organisation who have an enviable reputation for effectiveness and ability to deliver. The company has been reviewing its long term plans, and to ensure that these are achieved, has identified the need to augment its existing planning skills.

The Corporate Planning Manager will head up a newly formed planning group which will be responsible for all business and financial planning and I.T. strategy. Reporting directly to the Marketing and Business Planning Director, the individual will be charged with the production of strategic, operational and I.T. plans on both a five-year and annual basis, in line with the Company's objectives.

Candidates must be graduates with a good track record in business planning. They must be able to demonstrate the ability, not only to formulate strategy, but the skills to translate it into practical action plans, and to monitor these closely.

It is essential that applicants have a strong I.T. background, and preferably, experience in the financial services sector. They must be good man managers and will be expected to play an important and highly active role in the senior management team.

If you feel able to meet this exciting challenge, please send a career resume quoting reference 3196 to Bruce McKay, Touche Ross Executive Selection, 5th Floor, 52/54 High Holborn, London WC1V 6RL, telephone number 071-353 7361.



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FIN - C26K AAE

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All applications will be treated in strict confidence. For further information contact Jeff Davis or Christopher Kidd on 071-353-4212 (days) or 061-979-8140 or 061-491-1648 (even and weekends) or write to them at the address below.

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Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 93.3 (day's range 93.3).

### STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

| Rate for Mar 13 | Range           | Close           | 1 month   | 3 month   |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| New York        | 1.8541-1.8543   | 1.8550          | 0.97-0.98 | 0.85-0.86 |
| London          | 1.1775-1.1778   | 1.1780          | 0.84-0.85 | 0.74-0.75 |
| Amsterdam       | 3.2953-3.2958   | 3.2991-3.2992   | 1.74-1.75 | 2.14-2.15 |
| Brussels        | 60.05-60.43     | 60.21-60.43     | 1.10-1.11 | 1.50-1.51 |
| City of London  | 11.07-11.07     | 11.2075-11.2078 | 2.16-2.17 | 2.51-2.52 |
| Dublin          | 1.0254-1.0274   | 1.0254-1.0274   | 2.16-2.17 | 2.51-2.52 |
| Frankfurt       | 2.9195-2.9202   | 2.9195-2.9202   | 1.10-1.11 | 1.50-1.51 |
| London          | 320.25-324.38   | 320.25-324.38   | 1.10-1.11 | 1.50-1.51 |
| Madrid          | 2.1815-2.1824   | 2.1815-2.1824   | 1.10-1.11 | 1.50-1.51 |
| Milano          | 219.01-219.53   | 219.01-219.53   | 1.10-1.11 | 1.50-1.51 |
| Oslo            | 11.4263-11.4268 | 11.4263-11.4268 | 1.10-1.11 | 1.50-1.51 |
| Paris           | 9.3458-9.3471   | 9.3458-9.3471   | 2.16-2.17 | 2.51-2.52 |
| Stockholm       | 10.7579-10.7582 | 10.7579-10.7582 | 2.16-2.17 | 2.51-2.52 |
| Tokyo           | 22.84-23.23     | 22.84-23.23     | 2.16-2.17 | 2.51-2.52 |
| Venice          | 20.55-20.61     | 20.55-20.61     | 2.16-2.17 | 2.51-2.52 |
| Zurich          | 2.8550-2.8549   | 2.8549-2.8550   | 2.16-2.17 | 2.51-2.52 |

Source: Reuters. Premium = 1/2 p. Discount = 1/2 p.

### MONEY RATES (%)

| Base Rate (Clearing Bank)   | 13 Month | 12 Month | Week   | 12 Month |
|---|----------|----------|--------|----------|
| Discount Market (London) <td>11 1/2</td> <td>11 1/2</td> <td>11 1/2</td> <td>11 1/2</td>      | 11 1/2   | 11 1/2   | 11 1/2 | 11 1/2   |
| Treasury Bill (3 month) <td>11 1/2</td> <td>11 1/2</td> <td>11 1/2</td> <td>11 1/2</td>       | 11 1/2   | 11 1/2   | 11 1/2 | 11 1/2   |
| Prime Bank Bill (12 month) <td>11 1/2</td> <td>11 1/2</td> <td>11 1/2</td> <td>11 1/2</td>    | 11 1/2   | 11 1/2   | 11 1/2 | 11 1/2   |
| Overnight (open 13, close 13) <td>11 1/2</td> <td>11 1/2</td> <td>11 1/2</td> <td>11 1/2</td> | 11 1/2   | 11 1/2   | 11 1/2 | 11 1/2   |
| Local Authority Deposit <td>11 1/2</td> <td>11 1/2</td> <td>11 1/2</td> <td>11 1/2</td>       | 11 1/2   | 11 1/2   | 11 1/2 | 11 1/2   |
| Dollar Bill <td>11 1/2</td> <td>11 1/2</td> <td>11 1/2</td> <td>11 1/2</td>                   | 11 1/2   | 11 1/2   | 11 1/2 | 11 1/2   |
| Building Society (12 month) <td>11 1/2</td> <td>11 1/2</td> <td>11 1/2</td> <td>11 1/2</td>   | 11 1/2   | 11 1/2   | 11 1/2 | 11 1/2   |

### EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

| Country | 7 day | 1 month | 3 month | 6 month | 12 month |
|---------|-------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Germany | 8 1/2 | 8 1/2   | 8 1/2   | 8 1/2   | 8 1/2    |
| France  | 8 1/2 | 8 1/2   | 8 1/2   | 8 1/2   | 8 1/2    |
| Italy   | 8 1/2 | 8 1/2   | 8 1/2   | 8 1/2   | 8 1/2    |
| Spain   | 8 1/2 | 8 1/2   | 8 1/2   | 8 1/2   | 8 1/2    |
| Yen     | 8 1/2 | 8 1/2   | 8 1/2   | 8 1/2   | 8 1/2    |

### GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Fixed & Co)

| Bullion (Open 390.00-395.50)  | Close: 396.25-397.75   | High: 398.30-398.80        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Low: 394.45-395.25            | Krugers: 398.75-398.75 | (1970-1980)                |
| Sovereigns: Gold 91.00-92.00  | (1980-1985)            | (1985-1990)                |
| Palladium: \$410.00 (2250.00) | Silver: \$4.10 (22.50) | Palladium: 398.50 (246.00) |

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

| 1990/91 High Low Company Price Bid Offer Change p % P/E |
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Court of Appeal

Law Report March 14 1991

Court of Appeal

Spouse's role in drugs conspiracy

Legal aid disparity in appeals

**Regina v Christy**  
Before Lord Justice Glidewell, Justice Hoggings and Mr Justice Roulger  
[Judgment March 4]  
There a defendant entered a criminal conspiracy with her spouse, an offence had been committed only if she knew of the conspiracy.  
The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in dismissing the appeal of Mrs Charlotte Christy against a conviction made by Judge Machin at the Central Criminal Court (Judge Machin) of conspiring to supply a controlled drug contrary to section 1 of the Criminal Law Act 1977.

Section 2 of the Criminal Law Act 1977 provides: "(2) A person shall not... be guilty of conspiracy to commit any offence or offences if the only other person or persons with whom he agrees are (both jointly and at all times during the commission of the offence) persons of any one or more of the following descriptions that is say - (a) his spouse...".  
Mr Timothy Cassell, QC and Mr Jonathan Caplan for the appellant, Mr Michael Thompson for the prosecution.  
**LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL**, giving the judgment of the court, said that although the defendant committed the conspiracy only with her spouse, she was not guilty of a criminal conspiracy under section 1 of the 1977 Act with all the persons involved unless she knew at the time that she was conspiring with her husband.

It was enough that she had conspired with her husband knowing that others were involved or that others had conspired, for to hold otherwise would have allowed the spouse to avoid criminal liability under section 1.  
Only where the defendant did not know the existence of other conspirators would the section have afforded her protection.

**Solicitors:** Simons Muirhead & Burton, Solicitors, Customs and Excise.  
**Confiscating proceeds of drugs crime**  
**Regina v Christy (No 2)**  
Before Lord Justice Glidewell, Mr Justice Hoggings and Mr Justice Roulger  
[Judgment March 8]  
Where only one of the defendants to a conspiracy of drugs was convicted, the court could make a confiscation order in respect of the total proceeds of the conspiracy.

It was satisfied that the defendant had sufficient control of the proceeds of the conspiracy.  
The Industrial Tribunal Act 1975.

the definition of "realisable property" embraced legitimately acquired property which could therefore be taken into account when determining under section 4 the amount to be recovered.  
The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in dismissing the appeal of Mrs Charlotte Christy against a confiscation order made by Judge Machin at the Central Criminal Court under section 1 of the 1986 Act.

**LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL**, giving the judgment of the court, said that where the proceeds of drug trafficking

**Extra-marital liaisons rule was applied equally to both sexes by school employer**  
**Barriford v Woodard Schools (Midland Division) Ltd**  
Before Mr Justice Knox, Mr A. C. Blythorn and Mrs M. E. Sunderland  
[Judgment March 6]  
An unmarried school mistress who was dismissed when she became pregnant and did not intend to get married had not been unlawfully discriminated against on the ground of sex, contrary to section 1(1)(a) and 6(2)(b) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held (Mr A. C. Blythorn dissenting) when dismissing an appeal by the applicant, Miss Elizabeth Barriford, from a decision of a Birmingham Industrial Tribunal last May that her employer, Woodard Schools (Midland Division) Ltd, were not guilty of discrimination.  
Section 1 of the 1975 Act provides: "(1) A person discriminates against a woman... if (a) on the ground of her sex he treats her less favourably than he treats or would treat a man...".

Section 6 provides: "(2) It is unlawful for a person in the case of a woman employed by him at an establishment in Great Britain to discriminate against her... (b) by dismissing her...".  
Mr David Brock for the applicant, Mr Matthew Jackson for the school.

**MR JUSTICE KNOX** said that the defendant, Miss Barriford, was employed by Woodard Schools in Staffordshire, was operated by the respondents and was a boarding school for girls aged between 7 and 18. The applicant was dismissed when she told the headmaster that she had no intention of getting married.

were held in joint possession then where both defendants were before the court it would clearly have been unfair to have made a confiscation order for the total value, as assessed to be the proceeds, against each of the defendants.  
However, where only one of the defendants was before the court and convicted of drug trafficking then, as long as she was found to have sufficient control or possession of the property, the court did not see why a confiscation order for the total value of the proceeds could not be made.

The instant case was distinguished from *R v Porter* (1990) 1 WLR 1260 and *Viner v Long* (The Times May 25, 1990) for in those cases both defendants had been convicted and were before the court when it came to making the confiscation order.

If Mr Christy, who had absconded, was caught and convicted and the prosecution sought a confiscation order against the property not under consideration then it is the present order had been satisfied by Mrs Christy no further order as sought by the prosecution could be made.

Once it was established that the value of the realisable property acquired from the proceeds of drug trafficking was less than that of the defendant's drug trafficking proceeds, then she would have to satisfy the confiscation order by resorting to her lawfully acquired property.

**Solicitors:** Simons Muirhead & Burton, Solicitors, Customs and Excise.  
**Mode of trial choice relevant to costs**  
**Regina v Clelland**  
The defendant's choice of mode of trial was a relevant factor when determining costs.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Russell, Mr Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Turner) so held on February 25 in dismissing an appeal by Mr Glen George Clelland against a costs order made by Mr Assistant Recorder Kenneth Brown at Inner London Crown Court.

the court when it came to making the confiscation order.  
If Mr Christy, who had absconded, was caught and convicted and the prosecution sought a confiscation order against the property not under consideration then it is the present order had been satisfied by Mrs Christy no further order as sought by the prosecution could be made.

Once it was established that the value of the realisable property acquired from the proceeds of drug trafficking was less than that of the defendant's drug trafficking proceeds, then she would have to satisfy the confiscation order by resorting to her lawfully acquired property.

**Solicitors:** Simons Muirhead & Burton, Solicitors, Customs and Excise.  
**Justices denied defendant's right to speak from witness box**  
**Regina v Farnham Justices, Ex parte Gibson**  
Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Rose  
[Judgment March 7]  
Justices had no power to compel all defendants to give their evidence from the dock rather than the witness box, as defendants had a right, only to be overridden in exceptional circumstances.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court held in granting an application by Andrew Gibson for an order of certiorari to quash his conviction by Farnham Justices for driving with excess alcohol contrary to section 6(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1972 as substituted in Schedule 8 to the Transport Act 1981.

**MR JUSTICE KENNEDY** said that although costs should not be awarded in a manner which appeared to punish a defendant for exercising his right to trial on indictment, it was nevertheless a material factor for the court to take into account when considering questions of costs.

**LORD JUSTICE WATKINS** said that the applicant complained of a serious injustice arising from the fact that he had not been allowed to go into the witness box to give evidence. No complaint was made about the fact that he had not been allowed to sit alongside his solicitor and had to go in the dock, but whether that had been necessary having regard to the type of offence involved was questionable.

**Norwich and Peterborough Building Society v Steel**  
Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Leggatt  
[Judgment February 27]  
On an application for an extension of time for appealing, the merits of the proposed appeal were relevant to the exercise of the court's discretion, even where there might be good reason for the delay.

The present disparity of treatment between assisted and non-assisted parties in requiring compliance with the rules for setting down an appeal resulting from delays in the grant of legal aid could be remedied by the introduction of changes to the legal aid regulations and the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The Court of Appeal so stated in granting an application by the defendant, Michael Steel, for leave to extend the time for appealing from an order of Mr Justice Knox given on December 15, 1989 in an action for possession brought by the Norwich and Peterborough Building Society.

**MR STEPHEN ACTON** for Mr Steel, Mr Clive H. Jones for the building society.  
**LORD JUSTICE MCCOWAN** said that on such an application the court should take into account the length of the delay, the reasons for it, the chances of the proposed appeal succeeding and the prejudice to the prospective respondent.

The present relevant delay was about six and a half months which was substantial. The reason for the delay was the grant of legal aid.

**MR JUSTICE WATKINS** said that the applicant complained of a serious injustice arising from the fact that he had not been allowed to go into the witness box to give evidence. No complaint was made about the fact that he had not been allowed to sit alongside his solicitor and had to go in the dock, but whether that had been necessary having regard to the type of offence involved was questionable.

son was the delay in the grant of legal aid.  
The defendant's solicitors had made a sustained effort in attempting to obtain his grant. There was a reasonable explanation for the delay.  
Having considered the merits of the appeal, and the possible prejudice to the building society, his Lordship concluded that an extension of time should be given.

**LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT** agreed.  
**THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS**, concurring, said that it was wrong to assert that on such an application, if there was good reason for the delay, it was not necessary to enquire into the merits of the prospective appeal.

Once the time for appealing had elapsed, the respondent who was successful in the court below was entitled to regard the judgment as final. If he were to be deprived of that, it was only on the basis of a discretionary balancing exercise, however, balanced the delay might be on the part of the poor and another for the not quite poor enough.

A potentially assisted applicant had months in which to launch his appeal while an unassisted applicant had four weeks.  
It was not only the applicant who was affected. Such delays were a great hardship to the prospective respondents, amounting to very real injustice, who would not know that the appeal was on foot.

However, the Court of Appeal's hands were tied since there would be even greater injustice if an appeal were dismissed just because legal aid could not be obtained within four weeks.

To remedy the situation his Lordship proposed that the legal aid regulations be varied so that legal aid at the trial should be extended automatically to setting and serving a notice of appeal and setting it down in a special list to be kept for that purpose, provided that counsel who appeared at trial certified that in his view an appeal was arguable.

misunderstanding that to refuse to permit an appeal on that ground required the court to be satisfied that an appeal is doomed to failure.  
However the important point there was that the court found that it could not evaluate the chances of success without in effect hearing a lengthy mini-appeal.  
In those circumstances it was impossible to be sure the merits were not sufficient to counterbalance the excusable delay, and in that situation justice required that an extension be granted.

Turning to the problems caused by delay in grant of legal aid, his Lordship said that a situation had now been reached in the Court of Appeal in which there was one law for the assisted would-be appellant and one law for the non-assisted. It was a case of one law for the poor and another for the not quite poor enough.

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The proposals his Lordship suggested would not be difficult to implement, and would remove a major defect in the administration of justice.  
**Solicitors:** Chambers Rutland & Crawford, Finchley, Warrens Boyes & Archer, Huntingdon.

there would be even greater injustice if an appeal were dismissed just because legal aid could not be obtained within four weeks.  
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The Rules of the Supreme Court should be altered to accommodate service of a provisional notice of appeal on the respondent within the four-week period. If it were so served and set down then nothing further would be required until the legal aid application had been determined.

If granted, the provisional notice would cease to be provisional and the appeal would go on in the ordinary way. It was a case of one law for the poor and another for the not quite poor enough.

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## BOXING

# The old nightmare rivalries return to stalk dream city

From SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, LAS VEGAS

THE city of dreams looked as unreal as ever to boxing men on this visit, nine months after Mike Tyson's first comeback contest, following his defeat by James Buster Douglas.

As you come in to the city and see the Excelsior, the 4,032-roomed fairy-castle hotel, its porticoes, crendellations and all, against the Nevada desert, you feel time has not moved even if so much water has flowed under the drawbridge.

Tyson has not made much progress along the road to his title despite this being his third contest, against Donovan Ruddock at the Mirage Hotel on Monday, and all the old rivalries among the promoters have started again. There is more in-fighting outside the ring than there will be inside it.

Don King, Tyson's adviser, who was reunited with his fellow promoter, Bob Arum, George Foreman's adviser, after ten years of bitterness, has fallen out again with "the prince of evil" and master of trickery, as King humorously calls him.

"We've had a good experience," King had said of that new partnership last June. "When you leave a good taste in someone's mouth, it's comeback source, in the vernacular. You want to go back and have a repeat tray."

Now, together with José Sulaiman, the president of the World Boxing Council, King is trying to stop Evander Holyfield from defending against Foreman.

King even accused Arum of trying to spirit away Julio César Chávez, of Mexico, the world light-welterweight champion, with whom King has a contract.

Steve Wynn, the owner of the Mirage, who was the common enemy of the two promoters, is back in favour with King. King had earlier said: "Wynn is a guy who wears the persona of legalities and sophistication when he is really a renegade."

To heighten the unreality further, King has done a multi-million dollar deal with Showtime, who were Holyfield's friends, and Lou Duva, who has completed a multi-million dollar deal with Mike Weathers, who used to be King's friend.

Tyson himself is faced with having to wait six months to a year after he gets past Ruddock to meet the winner of the Holyfield-Foreman bout, which takes place on April 19. King was trying up to the last minute to make Tyson's comeback.

## SKIING

## A late starter is catching up fast

From DAVID CHAFFELL, IN Tignes, France

CLAIRE de Pourtales is finding out here this week that success breeds success. Coming into the British and British National Championships, she had yet to win a title at this level; yesterday, victory in the women's downhill brought her a second success in four days.

With her strongest discipline, the slalom, to come tomorrow, it is no surprise to find de Pourtales talking enthusiastically about her season. For a late starter to skiing, she is catching up fast at the age of 21.

"The season has been going very well," she said after beating Emma Carrick-Anderson by 14 seconds. "I had good results to Christmas and then it's just been getting better all the time. Winning the super-giant slalom on Sunday took a bit of pressure off."

"It doesn't seem so tough for me this year," she said. "I've made a step forward and suddenly it all seems quite reachable." But she will have noted the performance of Carrick-Anderson, the only other competitor to complete the course in under 15 minutes. The Scottish girl, aged 15, is showing the benefits of schooling in Austria and made light of being the first skier down in an

encouraging run.

In the absence of the Bell brothers, who are competing for World Cup points in the United States, Ronald Duncan, aged 28, emulated the double success of de Pourtales in the men's event. A downhill specialist ranked 64th in the world, Duncan's victory yesterday came as a surprise as he beat the American-based Bill Gayford and Dan Walker in a field of 58.

RESULTS: Slalom: 1, J. Duncan, 1:22.41; 2, W. Gayford, 1:24.15; 3, D. Walker, 1:25.19; 4, D. Walker, 1:25.58; 5, M. Carrick-Anderson, 1:26.75; 6, G. Carrick-Anderson, 1:28.05; 7, H. Ward, 1:28.30; 8, L. Beck, 1:28.85; 9, L. Ward, 1:29.18.

## SQUASH RACKETS

## Dittmar prevails in year of strife

By COLIN McQUILLAN

CHRIS Dittmar has been a key factor in Carlisle Cannons this week, securing their third Premier League title a fortnight ahead of the last fixture, but it has been a harrowing year for him.

"I seem to have been taking stick in one way or another since 1989," the red-headed Australian said. Dittmar, in addition to fighting his corner among the top five on the world circuit, is the uncompromising president of the International Squash Players Association.

His year began with a record £3,000 fine, from the organisation, for double-broking a Middle East exhibition with the Finnish Open and choosing to duck the Ispa event in favour of the Arab money.

In the summer he made a £20,000 transfer from Cannons and left his previous league employer, Mike Corby, of Lambie Club, spitting epithets about broken friendships.

All this season Dittmar has been locked in battle with Jansher Khan, the world champion from Pakistan, whom he has accused of unprofessional behaviour on and off the court.

When he defeated Jansher in their first league clash at Cannons, Dittmar was convinced the Pakistani threw the match rather than grant him a real victory. When they met again this week, after Dittmar's Cannons colleagues had locked up the league title with victories against Stars and Stripes, Jansher was overwhelmingly superior.

"You have to respect that level of play," Dittmar said. "But I don't like the guy."

Similar statements combined with a coldy friendly attitude towards Jansher on court have led to accusations of racism. Dittmar denies this.

"I care about my own playing career and the professional image of my sport. Jansher Khan happens to cause me problems on both counts," he said.

PREMIER LEAGUE: Stars and Stripes 1, Carlisle Cannons 3; Lycia 1, London Wolves 3; Lambie 4, North Wales 0; Mosaic 1, T. Team 0.

| Team            | P  | W  | L  | D | PTS |
|-----------------|----|----|----|---|-----|
| Cannons         | 14 | 12 | 2  | 0 | 75  |
| Lambie          | 14 | 10 | 4  | 0 | 60  |
| Stars & Stripes | 14 | 9  | 5  | 0 | 50  |
| Wolves          | 14 | 8  | 6  | 0 | 40  |
| N. Wales        | 14 | 4  | 10 | 0 | 24  |
| London          | 14 | 1  | 13 | 0 | 10  |
| Wolves          | 14 | 1  | 13 | 0 | 10  |
| Wolves          | 14 | 1  | 13 | 0 | 10  |
| Wolves          | 14 | 1  | 13 | 0 | 10  |
| Wolves          | 14 | 1  | 13 | 0 | 10  |

## Katabatic crowned two-mile champion at Cheltenham

IAN STEWART



Katabatic, left, mastering Young Sungfit on his way to victory in the Queen Mother Champion Chase yesterday

## Pipe's big success taxing for owner

By RICHARD EVANS

WINNING a race at the Cheltenham Festival is every National Hunt owner's dream. Yesterday, the reality proved too much for Hilda Clarke.

After leading Rolling Ball in to the hallowed winner's enclosure following victory in the Sun Alliance Chase, the emotion and excitement took its toll and she

## O'Neill triumphs with Danny Connors gamble

By MICHAEL SEELY, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE legendary Jonjo O'Neill hurled his hat high in the air in triumph after saddling his first winner at the National Hunt festival on a blazing hot afternoon at Cheltenham yesterday.

"This is a magic place," said the Cork-born former champion jockey after Mark Dwyer had ridden Danny Connors to a four-length win in the Coral Golden Hurdle Final, in the process landing a gamble for the well-known Irish bookmaker and punter J. P. McManus.

O'Neill's festival wins as a jockey have included Gold Cup victories on Alverton and Dawn Run, and Champion Hurdle wins on Sea Pigeon and Dawn Run.

"Training a festival winner has given me a bigger thrill than riding one. It's a team effort, there are so many people involved," he said.

Dwyer, who helped the punters land that extraordinary gamble on Fovargue, said: "I was in this race in 1983, rode a patient and well-judged race, biding his time before moving up to send Danny Connors clear on the hill."

"Mark rode a brilliant race," said O'Neill. "He's a funny horse. You don't know whether he is going to put his best foot forward or not. There was a moment two out today when I wasn't certain, but then he went through with it."

Corals, the sponsor, laid 16-1 about the eventual 9-1 winner. "He's a bit of a thinker, but Jonjo was confident that the horse was at his best," said McManus. "I lost on him at Newbury, but I had a bit on today and got it back with a little bit of interest."

Danny Connors' win certainly gave McManus' hand-

some consolation for a disappointing performance by his eight-year-old Blitzkrieg who finished fifth behind Katabatic in the day's big race, the Queen Mother Champion Chase.

Never have the ups and downs of steeplechasing been more dramatically illustrated than by the 6-1 win of Katabatic at the eight-year-old sprinted clear of "The Boy, the even money favourite, to win by six lengths."

Simon O'Neill, the winning jockey who will be 35 this weekend, only came in for his first-ever winner at the festival on Monday. This was his only mount during the three days.

Andy Turner, the successful trainer, despite having won the Grand National in 1987 with Maori Venture, has been feeling the effects of a recession so badly that he recently had to sell his car to help with the cash flow in his business.

"I have 19 horses at present," he said. "My accountant tells me I need 27 to break even."

The Wantage trainer has certainly excelled himself in his training of yesterday's winner. Having won the Grand Annual Handicap over the course and distance last March, the eight-year-old has now stamped himself as being the best two-miler in Britain and Ireland.

"There were rumours that Waterloo Boy had been stopped in his work," said the trainer. "But we thought the best we could do would be to finish second. I was pretty certain we could beat Blitzkrieg and Young Sungfit because when we finished third to them at Ascot Katabatic

dropped his hind legs in the water."

By far the most impressive sight of another marvellous afternoon's racing was that of Crystal Spirit in the opening Sun Alliance Novices' Hurdle. Carrying the black and gold colours of Paul Mellon, the 83-year-old American owner of such former Flat champions as *Secretariat*, *Affirmed* and *Secretariat*, he recorded a brilliant display of jumping in the hands of Jimmy Frost to beat Minorities Girl, the strongly fancied Irish challenger, by four lengths.

Frost, having added this win to his triumph on Tuesday, in the Champion Hurdle on Morley Street, surpassed himself in his confident judgment of pace throughout.

What a marvellous meeting this has been for the Baking brothers, Ian, the brother of Toby, Morley Street's trainer, is, of course, well known for his operations on the Flat. But Crystal Spirit, his first winner at the festival, was his first-ever runner at the meeting, although he won the National Hunt Chase as an amateur rider on Time in 1963.

"I don't know whether we will send him to Liverpool or not, even though Mr. Mellon may be coming over. Long term we are thinking of him as a Cheltenham Gold Cup prospect."

Despite David Elsworth's gloomy foreboding, I am still taking the 12-year-old Desert Orchid to overcome his natural aversion to Prestbury Park and win his second Cheltenham Gold Cup win at the expense of Celtic Shot and Cool Ground.

Teaplanter to collect Foxhunters'

By BRIAN BEE

Caroline Saunders, whose father, Dick, rode Gritter, the winner of the race ten years ago, Teaplanter has won seven of his eight races in the last two seasons, falling in the other on his debut over regulation fences, when in a commanding lead two fences out.

Crammer and Sanballat, both good winners this term, have obvious chances, but I believe Lean Ar Aghaidh's was the best. At Kempton, he gave the useful Wellington Brown, not without an outside chance here, 10lb and won comfortably by six lengths, which could be considered an

even better performance than Teaplanter's when, off level weights, he beat Wellington Brown by ten lengths at Newbury.

Dun Gay Lass and Lockmar Lad are interesting prospects on point-to-point form, and Old Nick has sound claims if he can put in a clear round.

In Lean Ar Aghaidh's likely absence, Teaplanter is taken to win, with Crammer and Old Nick filling the minor places.

## SPORTS LETTERS

### International referees at fault

From Mr David Reid

Sir, The rugby press has devoted much space recently to criticism of referees in international matches, much of it undeserved. As is obvious to anyone who actually referees a match, it is necessary to let many offences pass unchecked in order to have any kind of game at all. Normally, of course, these would be technical offences, which are unlikely to affect the play significantly.

But international referees can be fairly criticised, in my view, for their failure to enforce the law relating to the "pile up". Note (ii) to law 22 says down: "If any player in a mail goes to the ground... a scrumming is to be ordered unless the ball is immediately available", which it seldom is. Why does this law

### Logic demands four-day game

From Mr Martin Collins

Sir, Two reports of March 6 have interesting implications for English cricket. The first, that the England team should be created, with sides playing 16 games in a season. To add interest I would put forward a four-day, four-day system of promotion and relegation. Unlike the present system, it would give the majority of sides something to play for during the season and I am sure that larger crowds and more competitive games would result. To help develop Test match players, games could all be of four days' duration.

Another benefit would be that the opening and final rounds of matches would include every county. As a result, the English Union, as saying that, "Cricket Cup matches are to move to four days as the proper training ground for Test cricketers in readiness for their eagerly awaited return to a field."

Now that I read (March 7) that Ted Dexter and Micky Stewart are to retain their responsibilities on the England committee, who is it that the counties don't support them in their well publicised views that the entertaining and revenue producing one-day game has to be built around a sensible four-day championship and not vice versa?

I would be happy for my logic to be disputed because I am tired of the lack of England's success.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN COLLINS,  
15 Manor Road,  
Potters Bar, Hertfordshire.

### Injury insurance

From Mr Edward Grayson

Sir, Dr R. W. James (March 7) is more than justified in advocating a health levy for insurance within such a high risk game as rugby union. His plea recalls the unsuccessful High Court claim of Simon Vaa Oppen in the late 1980s for alleged negligent coaching and non-insurance by his school after grievous injuries in a house match.

The trigger factor on the insurance issue had been the firm recommendations, in 1979, of the Medical Officers' Schools Association, for compulsory insurance in all rugby-playing schools. So far as I am aware, that has since been implemented, and, in fairness to the Rugby Football Union, has been topped up by the Wavell Wakefield charitable trust.

More significantly recalled is a recently settled out-of-court

claim by a retired headmaster, one of whose eyes was injured by a golf ball hit without warning during a football match. As a result, the English Club Union recommended all clubs to take out insurance cover for their members.

One may also recall that the late Jimmy Guthrie, the former chairman of what is now the Professional Footballers' Association, effected a group accident insurance scheme for all its members and that the Football Association insures players selected for international duty. So, too, do all professional clubs, as well as many rugby union clubs.

Protection for players at all levels of rugby union, from grass roots to the World Cup, by adequate insurance is the least a game becoming aware with.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
EDWARD GRAYSON,  
4 Paper Buildings, EC4.

### Oriel's penalty

From Mr Patrick Macdonald

Sir, The stripping of Oriel's Torpids headship - for making a genuine mistake two weeks before the competition - was a deplorable triumph of sporting politics over sporting prowess. The action was unprecedented in the regatta's long history: technical bumps have only been given for offences committed during the event itself.

Torpids is a cumulative league event, with a crew's position at the end being determined both by its own efforts and by those of its predecessors. Positions on the river are thus assets built up over generations of students, not commodities to be adjusted between events by a politicised committee. If Mr Carallo (March 7) finds the rules to his taste, he should lobby to have them changed, not rejoice in their manipulation. Although chasing crews do have to make up a length and a half on the boat above, the system cuts both ways: in many of the past 20 years, Oriel have produced boats several lengths faster than

anybody else's, but could not improve their successors' chances of victory.

It is not too late for the Oxford University Boat Club to reverse its decision and return the four positions. If the decision is not reversed, Christ Church will have achieved a hollow victory; we shall see whether they can retain first place (they cannot honestly claim it to be the headship) until 2009.

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICK MACDONALD,  
Am Stavenort 14,  
2150 Buxtehude,  
Germany.

From Ms Beth Harrison

Sir, Mr Carallo writes that Oriel "were only head of the river for so long because the chasing crew is required to be at least a length and a half quicker". This is indeed the case, and Mr Carallo clearly did not see, nor were the crowds at the boathouses informed of it, the single foot of clear water between Christ Church and Oriel in the first half of the race on Saturday of Torpids.

In Oxford, arguments about the rights of the case will doubtless run and run, but Mr Carallo has erred the other way to include criticism of Oriel's performance in all sports and of the performance of Oriel women. When he says that the women "are yet to achieve great success on the river" I am drawn to give him some statistics. In the six years since women were first accepted by Oriel, the women's first Torpid has gone up two divisions, from the bottom of the lowest division, where all new crews are required to start. With four bumps the best that can be reasonably expected of a crew in four days of racing, and with 12 boats in a division, I leave him to do the sums.

The depth of enthusiasm for rowing in Oriel is reflected in the fact that the college competes in Torpids this year. Of these, the four women's boats - more than any other college - made 18 starts and achieved 17 bumps.

Yours faithfully,  
BETH HARRISON,  
Oriel College,  
Oxford.

### A silent fanfare

From Mr J. A. Brennan

Sir, Mark Brooks (Sports Letters, March 7) complains about the English team not being greeted at Lansdowne Road by the national anthem. When did he last hear the Irish national anthem played at Twickenham?

Yours faithfully,  
J. A. BRENNAN,  
St. Clare,  
Sandfield Park, Liverpool 12.

### Canine defence

From Mr Charles Kenney

Sir, Corrie Spaniel, of this address, raises issue with José María Olazábal for stating (report, March 11), about his performance in the final round of the Balcara Open, that he "putted like a dog".

While sympathetic with Señor Olazábal completing the round with flu, that dog is the more likely cause of flawed technique than the scurrilous reference to the technical ability of the canine world.

Yours faithfully,  
C. KENNEY,  
Elk, Chicago,  
West Port, Falkland, Fife.

### Slight fall in attendance

DESPITE the recession, the crowds were out in force again yesterday. The afternoon's attendance of 35,904 was only 1,517 down on the 1990 figure of 37,421. As on Tuesday, this represented a decrease of just over four per cent.

However, shirt sleeves were the order of the day as glorious spring sunshine pushed temperatures close to an unseasonal 70°F.

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FOOTBALL

# Two men who can see management in true perspective

By LOUISE TAYLOR

HARRY Redknapp and Ian Porterfield, the managers of Bournemouth and Reading, have more in common than the pursuit of promotion from the third division. They also share memories of long struggles to recover from horrendous road accidents.

A matter of months after scoring the winning goal for Sunderland against Leeds United in the 1973 FA Cup final, Porterfield was fighting for his life after sustaining serious head injuries. He eventually returned to the Sunderland midfield, before continuing his playing career at Sheffield Wednesday.

Subsequently the Scot, who is now 42 and a father of five, moved into management with Rotherham, Sheffield United, and Aberdeen. More recently he was assistant to Bobby Campbell at Chelsea, before taking charge at Reading in November 1989.

Fifteen years on from his accident, Porterfield appeared a picture of health, as he reacted philosophically to Tuesday night's 2-0 defeat by Bournemouth at Dean Court. Redknapp is still recovering from an accident during the

World Cup in Italy last summer in which Brian Tiler, the managing director of Bournemouth and a close friend, was killed. It left Redknapp in intensive care. So severe were his injuries that, when he resumed his managerial duties last autumn, doctors advised the former West Ham United player that heading a ball could kill him.

At the time the man known simply as "IE" vowed not to allow his involvement in football to be all-consuming as before. But six months on, friends say that, if anything, he is more caught up than ever in the treadmill of training and scouting. Nevertheless, their brushes with death mean that, unlike Bill Shankly, Redknapp and Porterfield have football in context. "I realise that there are other, more important, things in life," Redknapp said.

Porterfield believes that his experience has had a positive effect. "I think that having to fight for my life has given me more resilience and determination to keep going. The strange thing is that when I lived in south Yorkshire, Brian Tiler was a neighbour of

mine. I wrote Harry a note at the start of the season and it is good to see him back."

Redknapp's return to his office coincided with a revival in the side's fortunes, and Tuesday's win leaves Bournemouth, relegated last season, in sixth place and in strong contention for at least a play-off place.

Redknapp's son, Jamie, a 17-year-old football prodigy, has been signed by Liverpool and a great future is forecast for him. Well schooled in the traditions of the West Ham academy, Jamie plays the way his father preaches. Redknapp insists that the ball travels through the midfield, and along the ground.

Porterfield, widely regarded as one of the game's better tacticians, is also no exponent of the long ball, and Tuesday's match proved surprisingly sophisticated.

Reading remain five places and five points behind Bournemouth, but, significantly, have two games in hand. Wembley will be in for a treat if the pair should meet in the play-offs, for a match, their managers at least, will surely regard as a bonus.

## Palmer strikes in the nick of time

OLDHAM Athletic were fortunate to secure the point that kept them ahead of West Ham United at the top of the second division on Tuesday night (Louise Taylor writes). Away at Reading, they were losing 2-1 and had survived two penalty appeals, when, in the 83rd minute, Roger Palmer headed the 150th goal of his career to level the scores.

As Joe Royle, the relieved Oldham manager, said afterwards: "Roger has one trick and it generally ends with the opposition having to take a kick-off."

After a disappointing first half, Oldham scored for the first time in 10 minutes, before Calderwood gave Swindon the lead.

Middlebrough's hopes of overhauling Sheffield Wednesday, in the third promotion position, were bolstered by their 3-0 derby win against Newcastle United at Ayresome Park. Slaven Bilic (two) and Welsh scored the goals which take them to within two points of Wednesday, but United, who have failed to win a fixture on Teesside since Boxing Day

1964, will have to improve to entertain even an outside chance of qualifying for the play-off.

Siege Bull prompted seven saves from Bob Bolder, the Charlton Athletic goalkeeper, at Selhurst Park, but still finished up on the losing side, as Wolveshampton Wanderers went down 1-0 to a goal by Kim Grant, the 18-year-old substitute.

Watford are bottom of the second division and Hull City in the penultimate position after a 1-1 draw at Boothferry Park, while in the third division, Luton were held by Barnet in a 1-1 draw.

Grimsby Town reinforced their promotion chances with a 4-1 win at Rotherham, the bottom club, which moved them into second place, above Bolton Wanderers, whose 2-3 match unbeaten run ended with a 4-0 defeat at Mansfield Town.

Cambridge United consoling themselves for last Saturday's FA Cup exit at Arsenal with a 3-0 win at Leyton Orient.

## Burrows out of job again

FRANK Burrows yesterday left Portsmouth by "mutual consent" after a meeting with Jim Gregory, the club chairman. It is the second time that Burrows has stepped down as manager of the south coast side, which is presently sixth from bottom of the second division.

It is only 14 months since Burrows returned to Fratton Park, and promptly saved Portsmouth from relegation to the third division. Aged 47, and formerly in charge of Cardiff City, Burrows was manager of Portsmouth between 1979 and 1982, when he was dismissed by John Deacon, his former owner.

Gregory has now parted company with the managers Alan Ball, John Gregory, and Burrows - in less than three years since he became chairman and owner of Portsmouth.

Despite playing some attractive football, and almost knocking Chelsea out of the Football League Cup, Portsmouth have struggled in the second division, losing 16 of this season's 34 League games.

## Petrenko perfectly placed

FROM JOHN HENNESSY IN MUNICH

A COMMANDING performance by Viktor Petrenko, of the Soviet Union, dominated the second day of the European championship. He won the original programme section from Kurt Browning, of Canada, the holder of the gold medal, with Petr Barna, of Czechoslovakia, in third place.

Petrenko takes a lead of half a point over Browning but, since the free skating is now a full point, it is now a matter of which of the two prevails to-night - always assuming neither Barna or any other skater gets in the way.

Petrenko opened with a soaring triple axel in combination with a triple toe loop, both of superlative quality, and was inspired into transferring the haughty arrogance of his Spanish

the first hurdle by scoring eighteenth place. Only the leading 20 are allowed to skate in the finals.

He could not satisfactorily complete the combination jump because of a faulty triple lutz, and also lost his way in a spin combination.

RESULTS: Men's original programme: 1, V Petrenko (USSR), 2, K Browning (CAN), 3, P Barna (CAN), 4, C Brown (USA), 5, T Nover (USA), 6, S. Petrov (USSR), 7, E. S. Petrov (USSR), 8, M. S. Petrov (USSR), 9, S. Petrov (USSR), 10, S. Petrov (USSR), 11, S. Petrov (USSR), 12, S. Petrov (USSR), 13, S. Petrov (USSR), 14, S. Petrov (USSR), 15, S. Petrov (USSR), 16, S. Petrov (USSR), 17, S. Petrov (USSR), 18, S. Petrov (USSR), 19, S. Petrov (USSR), 20, S. Petrov (USSR).

And much time for thought, apparently. "We try to keep quiet while walking in the streets," he said. "It is advisable to save the gossip until later, when your morale needs a boost."

Easterby, who is 48, must

## A man who walks before he runs

DAVID BURGESS



Leader of the troop: Easterby recalls a childhood measured out in hospitals

## All for the breath of life

By MICHAEL COLEMAN

WALKING is probably the most under-rated training aid for a marathon. When you consider that 20,000 of the competitors in next month's London Marathon would be out-paced by top race-walkers, it is a little surprising that walking is not more widely practised.

Ernest Easterby has packed many miles of walking into his marathon preparation. He is a scout leader from Wickford, Essex, and Sixth London, his troop, have won the Essex Way 100-mile walk five times since 1983. It takes them about 16 hours.

Two weeks ago they took part in the Southern 50-mile challenge at Reading, the route of which Easterby has walked, alongside fields and on footpaths and rarely encounters a road. One hundred teams of four took part. Sixth London came to start at 7.30am and 13 hours later came in with the fifth fastest time.

And much time for thought, apparently. "We try to keep quiet while walking in the streets," he said. "It is advisable to save the gossip until later, when your morale needs a boost."

THE TIMES  
UNISYS  
ADT London  
Marathon Appeal

He has completed six marathons, invariably in support of a worthy cause, at an average 3hr 56min, a solid, mid-field jogger's pace which compares with the 3hr 15min a top-flight race walker such as Chris Maddocks, would take.

This year Easterby, who is married and has two children, both asthma-free, lines up for the London race on April 21 as one of the 700 Unisys team of fund runners. Not surprisingly, his cause this time is the National Asthma Campaign.

"Child asthma is on the increase and showing that this illness can be overcome is important," he said. "For a child it is a very frightening and debilitating illness."

The Times and Unisys - the official ADT London Marathon computer service - hope that by featuring the efforts of our team of fund runners we will help them find sponsorship. If you wish to support one or more of them, write clearly, stating the name of the runner, the Unisys team, the Times, and the Marathon Appeal, to: The Times, 10, Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. We will send you your donations.

Unisys is offering a Unisys personal computer to the biggest fund-raiser and a jobsworth and a mug of champagne to the second and third respectively.

GOLF

## Sting in the tail may be enough to lift Ballesteros

FROM MEL WEBB IN TARRAGONA

THERE really seems no end to the amount of hot air that people are prepared to expend in the promotion of their particular line of business. Take Robert Trent Jones Jr, for example, talking about the Bonmont Terres Mores course on which the Catalan Open starts next week.

"Like an Athenian demi-god, the course is animated," he writes in description of his creation. "It seductively beckons every level of expertise: 'Come and play! Discover my lines and edges!'"

He did not add, but might have done, "and contact Pseudo Course for me. I've got an absolute corker for them."

To be sure, the course is a luscious if still slightly immature testament to the Trent Jones dynasty, and few would deny it. The wind, blowing ruddy tan into players' cheeks in the pro-am yesterday, will play its part, and it will be a surprise if anybody truly conquers its 7,050 yards in the next four days.

Push will, though, eventually come to shove, it always does. And when that happens it is the players who will make or mar this week 100 or so miles down the Catalonian coast from Barcelona.

Take, for example, Severiano Ballesteros. A few years ago he was the best golfer in the world. Now he is not even the best golfer in Spain, if recent history is to be believed.

Ballesteros had a rough year in 1990 and was overtaken by Jose-Maria Olazabal, his young compatriot. Sad to say, this season has started no more auspiciously. He had three disastrous rounds in the Balmor Open last week only to redeem himself partly with a 68, best of the day, when playing with a marker in the last round. Perhaps that is the answer. Perhaps he just does not like playing when accompanied by another proper golfer.

Certainly the great Spaniard is an occasionally solitary figure.

### Card of the course

| Hole            | Yds | Par   | Hole     | Yds | Par |
|-----------------|-----|-------|----------|-----|-----|
| 1               | 525 | 4     | 11       | 250 | 4   |
| 2               | 379 | 4     | 12       | 410 | 4   |
| 3               | 440 | 4     | 13       | 211 | 3   |
| 4               | 405 | 4     | 14       | 133 | 3   |
| 5               | 185 | 3     | 15       | 318 | 4   |
| 6               | 474 | 4     | 16       | 187 | 3   |
| 7               | 548 | 5     | 17       | 587 | 4   |
| 8               | 213 | 3     | 18       | 587 | 4   |
| 9               | 435 | 4     | 19       | 420 | 4   |
| Out 2,805       |     | 36    | In 3,445 | 36  |     |
| Total parcourse |     | 7,050 | Par 72   |     |     |

set apart from ordinary mortals by a air of distraction to which he has become increasingly prone lately.

Be that as it may, the fact is that Ballesteros is worried enough about the attack which he is even to be seen in the lush surroundings of the Bonmont club. "This week I feel much better," he said with a small edge of menace in his voice. "My game is better. I have not found the secret. There is no secret, but I feel more fluent."

A powerful field has assembled here to play in a tournament worth £300,000. Olazabal, Singh, Brand Jr and a few other luminaries will try their damndest this week. If they are all eventually beaten by the second-best golfer in Spain, or even by a "lucky" and "edgy" none of them will be able to claim that he had not been warned.

## Faldo starts his quest

A STRONGER, fitter, and definitely bigger-looking Nick Faldo will make his first tournament appearance of the new season in Arnold Palmer's Nestle Invitational tournament, which begins today at the Bay Hill course in Orlando, Florida (a Special Correspondent writes).

Faldo is a popular figure in the United States and there have been many comments made about his "new" appearance.

"It's muscle, not fat," Faldo said, admitting to having put on 20lbs. "I have been body-building for nearly a year. I am not looking for more length but I want to be stronger so I don't get worn down over the long season."

"Last week my coach, David Leadbetter, worked on my leg action," Faldo said. "The season's goal is obviously the grand slam. The odds against it are enormous."

### SPORTS POLITICS

## National bodies look for Budget handout

By JOHN GOODBODY

BRITISH sports administrators are "optimistic but not overconfident" that in the Budget next week the government will abolish corporation tax on the finances of the national governing bodies. There has been intensive lobbying by leading officials to persuade Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer to grant this concession, which would cost the Treasury less than £10 million a year.

On Tuesday, the spectator sports division of the Central Council of Physical Recreation heard a report from Peter Lawson, the secretary, on the meetings with three government departments the Treasury, the Home Office and the Minister for Sport's office. The tax annually costs the Lawn Tennis Association £12.25 million, the Rugby Football Union £500,000 and the British Olympic Association, from its quadrennial appeal, £750,000.

It has been stressed that the proposal would only apply to national governing bodies and not to clubs and that the governing bodies would not be seeking to acquire charitable status, which could give them exemption from tax.

Another Budget possibility is for the government to set up a national lottery to help fund the arts, sport and the environment. As it seems certain European lotteries will be able to set tickets in Britain after 1992, there is pressure on the government to act.

## Early SA return

SOUTH Africa is likely to compete in next year's Barcelona Olympics, Sam Ramsamy, the leading anti-apartheid campaigner, said yesterday.

"I think there will be a South African presence in Barcelona. It seems highly probable," he said.

SWIMMING: Joanne Deakin, of Gloucester, broke her own British short-course record in the 200 metres backstroke at the World Cup in Milan, Italy, last week.

TENNIS: James Turner beat Nicola Pietrangeli, the top-seeded Italian, 7-6, 5-7, 6-4, to reach the semi-finals of the Serve and Volley Masters men's satellite tournament at Manchester.

MOTOR SPORT: Andrew Street, from Worcestershire, Timothy Day, from South Humberside, David Harrison, from Scotland, and Timothy Postgate, from Essex, went through to the final selection for the British team for the Canoe Trophy after a four-day trial at Maidenhead in Wiltshire.

### FOR THE RECORD

#### BADMINTON

WOMEN: ALL-ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS: 1st, P. Fildes (ENG), 2nd, J. Fildes (ENG), 3rd, J. Fildes (ENG), 4th, J. Fildes (ENG), 5th, J. Fildes (ENG), 6th, J. Fildes (ENG), 7th, J. Fildes (ENG), 8th, J. Fildes (ENG), 9th, J. Fildes (ENG), 10th, J. Fildes (ENG).

#### BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BASKETBALL: 1st, J. Fildes (ENG), 2nd, J. Fildes (ENG), 3rd, J. Fildes (ENG), 4th, J. Fildes (ENG), 5th, J. Fildes (ENG), 6th, J. Fildes (ENG), 7th, J. Fildes (ENG), 8th, J. Fildes (ENG), 9th, J. Fildes (ENG), 10th, J. Fildes (ENG).

#### BOXING

MANCHESTER: Professional boxing: 1st, J. Fildes (ENG), 2nd, J. Fildes (ENG), 3rd, J. Fildes (ENG), 4th, J. Fildes (ENG), 5th, J. Fildes (ENG), 6th, J. Fildes (ENG), 7th, J. Fildes (ENG), 8th, J. Fildes (ENG), 9th, J. Fildes (ENG), 10th, J. Fildes (ENG).

#### CURLING

GLASGOW: Royal Bank of Scotland curling championships: 1st, J. Fildes (ENG), 2nd, J. Fildes (ENG), 3rd, J. Fildes (ENG), 4th, J. Fildes (ENG), 5th, J. Fildes (ENG), 6th, J. Fildes (ENG), 7th, J. Fildes (ENG), 8th, J. Fildes (ENG), 9th, J. Fildes (ENG), 10th, J. Fildes (ENG).

#### CYCLING

PANDE TO RACE: 1st, J. Fildes (ENG), 2nd, J. Fildes (ENG), 3rd, J. Fildes (ENG), 4th, J. Fildes (ENG), 5th, J. Fildes (ENG), 6th, J. Fildes (ENG), 7th, J. Fildes (ENG), 8th, J. Fildes (ENG), 9th, J. Fildes (ENG), 10th, J. Fildes (ENG).

#### HOCKEY

SCHOOLS MATCHES: 1st, J. Fildes (ENG), 2nd, J. Fildes (ENG), 3rd, J. Fildes (ENG), 4th, J. Fildes (ENG), 5th, J. Fildes (ENG), 6th, J. Fildes (ENG), 7th, J. Fildes (ENG), 8th, J. Fildes (ENG), 9th, J. Fildes (ENG), 10th, J. Fildes (ENG).

#### ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: 1st, J. Fildes (ENG), 2nd, J. Fildes (ENG), 3rd, J. Fildes (ENG), 4th, J. Fildes (ENG), 5th, J. Fildes (ENG), 6th, J. Fildes (ENG), 7th, J. Fildes (ENG), 8th, J. Fildes (ENG), 9th, J. Fildes (ENG), 10th, J. Fildes (ENG).

#### FIXTURES

2-20 unless stated  
FOOTBALL: 1st, J. Fildes (ENG), 2nd, J. Fildes (ENG), 3rd, J. Fildes (ENG), 4th, J. Fildes (ENG), 5th, J. Fildes (ENG), 6th, J. Fildes (ENG), 7th, J. Fildes (ENG), 8th, J. Fildes (ENG), 9th, J. Fildes (ENG), 10th, J. Fildes (ENG).

### Decision deferred

The new coach of the United States national association football team will not be named until early next month, according to the US federation president, Alan Rensberg. John Kowalski is serving in a caretaker capacity following the resignation of Bob Gansler in February.

### RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: 1st, J. Fildes (ENG), 2nd, J. Fildes (ENG), 3rd, J. Fildes (ENG), 4th, J. Fildes (ENG), 5th, J. Fildes (ENG), 6th, J. Fildes (ENG), 7th, J. Fildes (ENG), 8th, J. Fildes (ENG), 9th, J. Fildes (ENG), 10th, J. Fildes (ENG).

### SHOOTING

WYNDHAM: 1st, J. Fildes (ENG), 2nd, J. Fildes (ENG), 3rd, J. Fildes (ENG), 4th, J. Fildes (ENG), 5th, J. Fildes (ENG), 6th, J. Fildes (ENG), 7th, J. Fildes (ENG), 8th, J. Fildes (ENG), 9th, J. Fildes (ENG), 10th, J. Fildes (ENG).

### SWIMMING

WYNDHAM: 1st, J. Fildes (ENG), 2nd, J. Fildes (ENG), 3rd, J. Fildes (ENG), 4th, J. Fildes (ENG), 5th, J. Fildes (ENG), 6th, J. Fildes (ENG), 7th, J. Fildes (ENG), 8th, J. Fildes (ENG), 9th, J. Fildes (ENG), 10th, J. Fildes (ENG).

### ETON FIVES

ETON: 1st, J. Fildes (ENG), 2nd, J. Fildes (ENG), 3rd, J. Fildes (ENG), 4th, J. Fildes (ENG), 5th, J. Fildes (ENG), 6th, J. Fildes (ENG), 7th, J. Fildes (ENG), 8th, J. Fildes (ENG), 9th, J. Fildes (ENG), 10th, J. Fildes (ENG).

### SATURDAY, 30th MARCH

OXFORD UNIV. -v- CAMBRIDGE UNIV.  
THE VARSITY BOAT RACE & THE VARSITY FOOTBALL MATCH

This year Fulham FC are hosting the Varsity Football Match, kicking off at 11am with the Boat Race due to start at 12.30. With all the Hospitality Suites and Private Promenade at Craven Cottage looking directly out over the river, this is a unique opportunity to see two traditional Varsity Events while entertaining clients with top class hospitality.

For details of costs and availability of the Hospitality Packages call Dominic Ostrowski on

071-736 6561



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# THE TIMES

## SPORT

### Barnes dilemma moving closer to a conclusion

By IAN ROSS

AFTER more than nine months of negotiations, Liverpool's attempt to persuade John Barnes to stay in English football is finally nearing its end.

Barnes, the England international forward, is expected to announce in the next few weeks whether or not he is willing to pledge his immediate future to the Merseyside club by signing a new contract.

The indications are that Barnes, aged 27, will decide to leave the League champions at the end of this season to fulfil his long-held dream of playing on the Continent.

Liverpool's first attempt to convince Barnes he should remain at the club was made in May last year, with the offer

of a substantially improved contract of unspecified length. Barnes refused to sign, insisting that he required time in which to consider his numerous options before reaching a decision which he admitted constituted the most important of his career.

Talks, both formal and informal, have since been held between Barnes and Noel White, the Liverpool chairman, and Peter Robinson, the club's chief executive, on a regular basis but the player has still to announce his decision.

It may well be that negotiations will continue until the summer, when Barnes becomes a free agent on the expiry of the contract — signed when he joined Liverpool

from Watford for £900,000 in 1987. "We are still negotiating with him and attempting to persuade him to stay at Liverpool," Robinson said.

If Barnes does decide to take his precocious talent abroad, Liverpool stand to lose an estimated £3 million.

Although he is conservatively valued at £4.5 million, Liverpool will collect no more than £1.5 million from his sale — the maximum transfer fee permitted by Uefa for deals involving players who are out of contract.

Barnes's reluctance to state whether he intends to remain at Liverpool almost certainly has its roots in his wish to join one of Italy's leading clubs.

At present, only Monaco and Marseille have expressed a firm interest in buying him and, while a move to France would prove to be rewarding in a purely financial sense, it would be unlikely to enhance an international career which has been the subject of much debate since the World Cup finals last summer.

Kenny Dalglish, the former Liverpool manager, who signed Barnes, is thought to be considering coming out of retirement to play in a testimonial game for Ray Kennedy, the former England, Arsenal and Liverpool midfielder player, who is suffering from Parkinson's disease.

A game between Arsenal and Liverpool has been scheduled for April 27 at Highbury, and Dalglish is one of Kennedy's former team-mates who is likely to be invited to take part.

"I know that I was lucky enough to play for the two greatest clubs in this country, and the way they have found time to arrange this game for me only proves that point," Kennedy said.

### Scholar lays down conditions of sale

IRVING Scholar, the chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, last night laid down the conditions under which he would be prepared to allow a consortium to take over the club (Stuart Jones writes).

He was speaking to his potential successor, Terry Venables, who could become either the chief executive or the managing director.

The conditions are that Gascoigne would not be sold, that shares will be bought for a reasonable price (believed to be at least £1 each) and that the group has enough financial backing not only for the takeover bid of £20 million but also to buy players to strengthen the squad.

Tottenham were also involved in a Football League inquiry last night as the League were called in by Crystal Palace, who claim they

are owed £31,905 in ticket sales by Spurs from last month's postponed game between the clubs.

Andy Williamson, the League assistant secretary, confirmed: "We have received a complaint from Palace and we are investigating." Palace say the money was due for payment on February 23.

Spurs, meanwhile, will draw a large dividend from their FA Cup semi-final against Arsenal at Wembley next month and they would collect £440,000 as their share of the gate receipts alone if they went on to reach the first £2 million final on May 18.

### World Cup bid

South Korea, which staged the 1988 Olympic Games, is to bid for the World Cup football finals in 2002.

### Complaint by Clough

By CHRIS MOORE

BRIAN Clough crossed swords with football's administrators again yesterday by describing as "barmy" the decision to revert to a 22-club first division next season.

"The demands on our best players are far too great as it is," the Nottingham Forest manager said. "Those idiots who run the game got a little bit of common sense in their minds a few seasons ago and cut our League down to 20 clubs."

"We are going back to 22. I'm telling you that's barmy," he said. "The question of finance will have influenced them a little bit. But outside of that I cannot think of one sensible reason for it."

"If you look through our

squad that went to the World Cup last summer, many of the top players have since either taken a dip in form or suffered long-term injuries. David Platt has hardly kicked a ball for Aston Villa and Paul Gascoigne has been hanging on by his fingertips."

"I said last August I fully expected my three World Cup players, Steve Hodge, Des Walker and Stuart Pearce, to lose their level of performance some time this season because no professional player can play football for two seasons without having a break."

"Pearce is an absolute credit to the game and an inspiration to us, but he took his dip before Christmas and I think Walker is going through his

now. It's a mental state as well as physical and there's nothing we can do about it."

Reflecting on Forest's progress to the semi-finals of the FA Cup, Clough said it was other people who were "obsessed" about the idea of him reaching the final for the first time.

"I've twice been within kicking distance of Wembley and if it comes along this season, it will come along," he said. "But this silly line I keep reading about your name being on the cup is nonsense. The only time your name goes on the cup is after you have won it. There are no names on anything before they have been played or before draws have been made."

England's joint No. 2 man, Steve Butler, also had a good win, surviving 15-10, 11-15, 17-14, against Kwan Yoke Ming, the No. 3 player in Malaysia's silver medal-winning Thomas Cup team.

The other No. 2, Anders Nielsen, was carried off with an ankle injury early in his match against European junior champion, Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen.

Nevertheless, there were hints of future hope from England's other joint No. 1, Jo Murgers, and the English national champion, Julie Bradbury. Both won their opening matches and were close to winning again and reaching the last 16. The best effort came from Bradbury, still a part-timer, and yet bridging the gap into genuine international class.

Results, page 37.

# Go on, pick your nose.

Without wishing to sound unsavoury, we're asking you to consider which shocking, fabulous nose you might wish to sport in support of Comic Relief this year. Really, you should be picking your nose right now. There are four different sizes and you should be able to get hold of all of them from now until Red Nose Day, Friday March 15th.

Smallest yet silliest are the new-look red noses, available from Woolworths, Oxfam and Save the Children shops for 60p. Woolworths also have Comic Relief T-Shirts, £6.99, Sweatshirts, £11.99 and children's T-Shirts for £4.99, all profits going directly to Comic Relief.

Drive into a BP garage over the next

few days and you'll be entering a Red Nose Zone, where you'll find Car Noses, £1.50, which make even the flashiest car look ridiculous and Truck Noses, £3, especially for those wanting to help out in a big way.

The Building Noses at six by six feet are hugely popular and already putting a smile on many a discriminating building. They're £1000 so only for those genuinely claiming to have one of the biggest noses in Britain — Fax 071-436 1542. And although all the new noses have hands, it doesn't mean they'll be picking your nose for you.

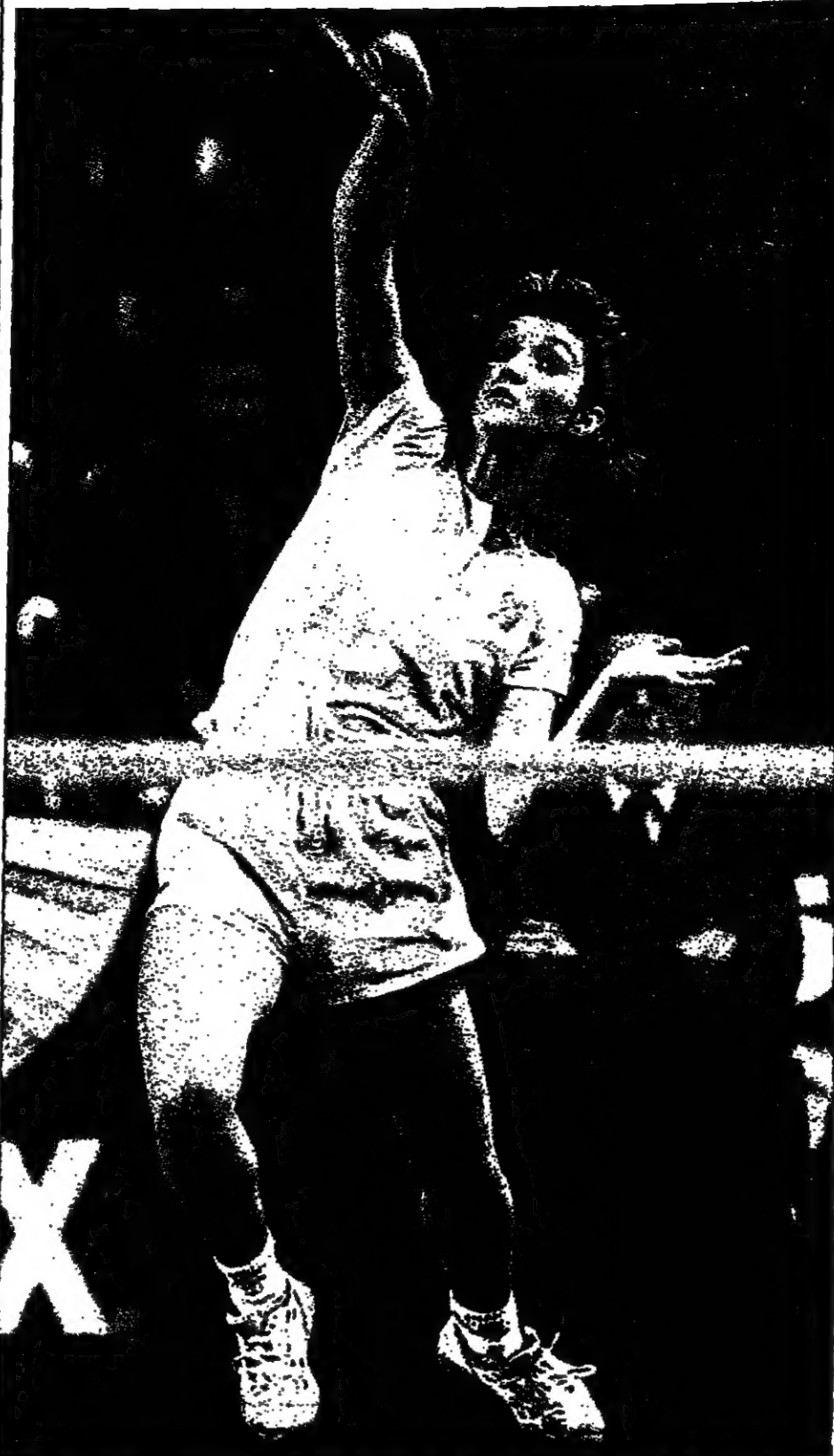
COMIC RELIEF

MARCH 15TH IS RED NOSE DAY

Comic Relief is a wholly owned subsidiary of Charities Project, Registered Charity Number 1970754. For further information please contact 046 7000, 7 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3JH.

### Champion makes a graceful exit

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Flying high: Bradbury rises to the challenge before narrow defeat at Wembley

### Illness takes its toll on Troke

By RICHARD EATON

HELEN Troke, seeded to reach the quarter-finals, was beaten in her first match, and for the second successive year every English women's singles player was eliminated on the opening day of the Yonex All England badminton championships at Wembley yesterday.

Disappointing though this was, it was not, as last time, a complete disaster. Troke, beaten 11-7, 9-12, 11-2, by the Chinese teenager, Hu Ning. She nearly withdrew from the tournament with flu, but after taking penicillin decided to have a go anyway. "I shouldn't have played, but felt I was letting people down if I didn't," the former European and Commonwealth champion said.

England's joint No. 2 man, Steve Butler, also had a good win, surviving 15-10, 11-15, 17-14, against Kwan Yoke Ming, the No. 3 player in Malaysia's silver medal-winning Thomas Cup team.

The other No. 2, Anders Nielsen, was carried off with an ankle injury early in his match against European junior champion, Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen.

Results, page 37.

### £10,000 fine for Eubank

A HEAD butt by Chris Eubank cost him £10,000, yesterday, but the World Boxing Organisation middleweight champion took the punishment on the chin.

"I'm happy with the result," Eubank said after the British Board of Control also issued a severe reprimand, warning him about his future conduct.

Eubank was found guilty of bringing boxing into disrepute by butting Dan Sherry, the Canadian who was taunting him during a challenge for Eubank's title in Brighton on February 23. He was lucky not to be disqualified and lose his title.

"The fine is a lot of money to me, but I'm happy with the result," Eubank said. "I was totally wrong and have been reprimanded and warned. I accept the decision."

"The board is a fine body and has done good things for me in the past. Sherry called me names and stunned me. All I can say is that the impulse was wrong and I have paid the price."

Julian Crickley, the MP for Aldershot, and a board steward said: "It was a disgraceful incident."

### Marsh leads onslaught by Australia

BRIDGETOWN (Reuters) — Geoff Marsh, the Australian opening batsman, hit a record-breaking 113 as the touring side piled up 283 for six in their 50 overs in the fourth one-day international against West Indies here yesterday. After nine overs of their reply, West Indies had reached 49 for the loss of Simmons and Haynes.

Marsh's eighth one-day century — a record for Australia — spurred his side to their highest score against West Indies in limited-overs cricket. Allan Border, the captain, who made 79 and Mark Waugh (49) provided strong support.

Such a large total seemed very unlikely when Australia, after electing to bat, slipped to 27 for two with Mark Taylor and Dean Jones both out cheaply. Neither looked comfortable, although Jones had hit Malcolm Marshall for six. But Curtly Ambrose, in particular, was enjoying the bounce in the Kensington Oval pitch. However, Marsh and Border then added 146 in 25 overs while Marsh and Mark Waugh put on 87 in 12, as Australia first consolidated and then ravaged the West Indian attack.

Marsh hit three sixes and eight fours in his 141-ball innings. Four other sixes were hit, the most stunning being Mark Waugh's off Marshall which was carved over point.

Waugh lashed his 49 from 31 balls before being run out by Ambrose following through, after the batsman had left his crease and slipped as he turned back.

Marshall conceded 42 runs in his last four overs and 67 off his quota of ten. Only Ambrose escaped a mauling, taking three for 38 from his ten overs. He was assisted by Waugh with yorkers in the penultimate over.



Marsh: in punishing form

AUSTRALIA  
M A Taylor c Dixon b Ambrose 5  
D R Marsh b Ambrose 113  
D A Jones c Walsh b Marshall 79  
M E Waugh run out 49  
S R Waugh run out 49  
T A Healy not out 1  
C J McDermott not out 1  
Extras (b 2, lb 7, w 4, nb 5) 16  
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs) 283  
P L Taylor, M R Whitney and B A Reid did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-27, 3-173, 4-280, 5-271, 6-276.  
SCORING: Ambrose 10-1-36-3 (w), nbs; Marshall 10-1-67-1 (w2, nbs); Waugh 10-0-45-2; Simmons 5-0-37-0 (w1); Richards 4-0-29-0; Hooper 10-0-57-1.

WEST INDIES  
P V Simmons c McDermott 23  
D L Haynes b Field 22  
R B Richardson not out 1  
C G Greenidge not out 1  
Extras (b 2, lb 7, w 4, nb 5) 16  
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs) 48

All Lough, T V A Richards, C L Hooper, P L Taylor, M R Whitney, C E L Ambrose and G A Walsh to bat.

□ The England and Leicestershire all-rounder, Chris Lewis, is stepping up his campaign to be fit for the start of the new season.

Lewis, sent home from the tour of Australia with a stress fracture of the back, went to Lillleshall yesterday to start a physical fitness assessment programme.

□ Suffolk have signed the former Middlesex and England batsman, Roland Hughes, who retired from the last summer.

### Desert Orchid is going for gold

By RICHARD EVANS

DESERT Orchid, the Fied Piper of British racing, will today attempt to play a new tune by becoming the first horse in history to regain the Gold Cup.

The nation's favourite racehorse, who has cost bookmakers tens of millions of pounds in losses over the years, seems certain to be sent off as the warm favourite after a change in the weather blunted the hopes of contenders needing soft ground.

Cheltenham might have been Royal Ascot yesterday as shirt-sleeved punters enjoyed cloudless skies and temperatures in the mid-60s.

Victory for Desert Orchid, following his success in the race two years ago, would be a severe setback for the bookmakers, who expect £10 million to be wagered on the Gold Cup.

"Desert Orchid has cost bookmakers an estimated £30 million during his racing career. Quite simply, when he wins, we lose," Mike Dillon, of Ladbrokes, said. "He is so popular, he has spawned his own range of bets. You can back Desert Orchid and name the winning distance and get

33-1 — or you can back him to be second."

Not many of his followers are likely to adopt the latter course, although the signals coming from the stable of David Elsworth yesterday were far from overconfident. "He's got a favourite's chance, and I hope he runs well, but I have a lot of respect for the other runners," Elsworth said.

After taking heavy losses on the opening day of the festival, bookmakers recouped some of them yesterday. Waterloo Boy, the heavily backed even-money favourite for the Queen Mother Champion Chase, was beaten seven lengths by Katabatic in the day's feature race.

Although Crystal Spirit, a highly impressive winner of the Sun Alliance Novices Hurdle, and Rolling Ball, victor in an Sun Alliance Chase which was full of incident, were well supported favourites, the final race of the day was a joy for bookmakers. Foyle Fisherman was 33-1 (69-1 on the Tote) for the Midway of Flete Challenge Cup.

O'Neill gambles, page 34

### Pickard may put ball in Lloyd's court

By ANDREW LONGMORE

IF TWO and two make four, and in British tennis that is not always the case, Tony Pickard's first call as the new Davis Cup captain will be to the delightfully named Pacific Palisades on the outskirts of Los Angeles. There to find John Lloyd, another whose talent has been spurned for too long by the Lawn Tennis Association.

Despite a difference in age of nearly 20 years, Lloyd and Pickard have become good friends since the early Seventies when Pickard had a brief — and, it must be said, unsuccessful — spell as Davis Cup captain and player on the game. Pickard gave Lloyd his first chance in the Davis Cup against West Germany in 1973.

For much of the last decade they have been fellow travellers. Both persistent critics of the LTA's methods; both successful elsewhere, Pickard with Edberg and Lloyd, in recent years, as a coach and player on the lucrative over-35s circuit; both desperate to see a change in the fortunes of British tennis. Neither needs a job with the LTA.

But now that the LTA has per-

### COMMENT

suaded Pickard back into its ranks, the partnership could be renewed. One of Pickard's first tasks is to find a Davis Cup coach, someone who can work with the players when he is otherwise occupied with Edberg. Lloyd, who has already had a ringing endorsement from the British No. 1, Jeremy Bates, would be the ideal choice, if he could be persuaded that he was working for Pickard, not the LTA. Ian Peacock, the chief executive of the LTA, confirmed two days ago that Lloyd and Ian Barclay, another highly respected coach, who took Pat Cash to the Wimbledon title and is based in London, would be contacted about their availability.

Lloyd was surprised and delighted at Pickard's return. But he was also a little suspicious. "It's a very positive step and it's great that he has taken on the job," Lloyd said. "He'll do it well. If Tony asked me to help and he was the person hiring and firing me, I would love to become involved with the Davis Cup team. It would be a great honour," Lloyd added. "The

one thing that worries me is that Tony won't be given enough power to do what he needs."

The changes have also been backed by the players and elsewhere in the game. Nick Brown, the British No. 2, saw at first hand last weekend what Olga Morozova, another new recruit to the LTA, has done to revitalise the Rover School at Bisham Abbey in two months and feels that Pickard's influence will be the same. "Olga has completely changed the atmosphere down at Bisham. She has such presence that it cannot fail to rub off on the young players there."

"Tony is the same sort of character and, if he teamed up with John Lloyd, I know they would have the players' respect. For a start, the team would be more disciplined and better organised. With Richard Lewis as well, it really feels as if we are going in the same direction and that hasn't happened for a while."

Dave Emery, the coach of Winchester Tennis Club and organiser of the Star Search scheme for juniors, is equally enthusiastic about the new direction the LTA seems to be taking.

"It's very positive because Tony has achieved at the highest level and has the international experience. My own feeling is that he should work as much as possible with our talented juniors and not so much with the present Davis Cup players. It all depends how much time he can devote to the job and how much power he is given."

"But at long last we have got some people up there who know what they're doing. If, for example, we had John Lloyd, Mark Cox and Tony all working together, we would have a definite chance for the future."

The extent of Pickard's control was largely passed over in the hatching-burying which accompanied his appointment on Tuesday. But it will become apparent all too soon as Pickard tries to prepare his team for tricky Davis Cup tie on clay in Warsaw in May. Pickard will want to know where and how his team is coming weeks and he will make his presence felt if he feels his schedule is not right. It could be one of the shorter honeymoon on record.